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# *Aruba* TODAY

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## HUMANE ACT



Sens. Pat Leahy (D-Vt.) and John Cornyn (R-Texas), right, speak in Cornyn's office at the Capitol in Washington. Cornyn and Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Texas, plan to introduce a bipartisan bill Tuesday intended to combat the humanitarian crisis at the nation's southern border. (Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

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### Lawmakers Plan Bill to Confront Immigrant Surge



# Emerging nations plan their own World Bank, IMF

**PAUL WISEMAN**

**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Fed up with U.S. dominance of the global financial system, five emerging market powers this week will launch their own versions of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa —the so-called BRICS countries — are seeking “alternatives to the existing world order,” said Harold Trinkunas, director of the Latin America

The BRICS powers are still jousting over the location of the bank’s headquarters — Shanghai, Moscow, New Delhi or Johannesburg. The headquarters skirmish is part of a larger struggle to keep China, the world’s second-biggest economy, from dominating the new bank the way the United States has dominated the World Bank, which is based in Washington.

The bloc comprises countries with vastly different economies, foreign policy

multi-billion dollar debt in the 1990s but paid it down in the early 2000s. It has since been reluctant to borrow or to seek assistance from the IMF or other Western financial institutions, which are widely seen in Russia as predators. “China actively supports the establishment of the BRICS Development Bank and the contingency reserve as soon as possible to give the BRIC countries their own safety net,” Li Baodong, a deputy foreign

Fed’s easy money policies diminish, U.S. interest rates are likely to rise and draw money away from emerging markets and back to the United States. That could rattle financial markets in the developing world, driving stock prices and currencies down. “We agreed that it’s important in the current conditions of the capital flight to have this reserve, a kind of mini-IMF,” Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov said before he went

## US officer fires shot in clash at pro-Israel rally

**TAMI ABDOLLAH**

**Associated Press**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — A U.S. officer fired his weapon once at men in a truck as they fled a pro-Israel rally in Los Angeles after using wooden poles bearing Palestinian flags to hit protesters, authorities said Monday.

The incident resulted in four arrests and no injuries.

Sunday’s rally was held as Israel continued an offensive against Hamas that has killed at least 185 people and forced thousands of Palestinian residents to flee their homes.

Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip have launched more than 800 rockets at Israel.

The pro-Israel rally in Los Angeles attracted as many as 1,800 people, including some pro-Palestinian demonstrators. Several were in a truck with a Palestinian flag when a pro-Israel demonstrator grabbed the flag and stepped on it, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Sgt. Dave Valentine said.

The men in the truck confronted the demonstrators and struck multiple people with their flagpoles, Valentine said.

An officer who typically provides security for federal buildings tried to stop the four men from attempting to flee and fired a shot from his service weapon, Federal Protective Service spokeswoman Jacqueline Yost said in a statement. The name of the officer was not released.

Yost had no further details on what the officer was aiming at or what steps were taken before the weapon was discharged.

An ambulance was called for a woman who was injured after apparently being hit by the men, Yost said. Los Angeles fire spokesman Erik Scott said no one was transported to a hospital.

Police later caught up with the truck, and four men were arrested and booked on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon, Valentine said. □



**Russia’s President Vladimir Putin arrives to Planalto presidential palace in Brasilia, Brazil, Monday, July 14, 2014. Putin is in Brazil to attend a presidential summit of the BRICS group of nations. In another sign of the shifting balance of power in the world economy, emerging market powers Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa are launching a \$100 billion development bank to challenge the U.S.-dominated World Bank and help finance \$4.5 trillion worth of infrastructure projects.**

**(AP Photo/Eraldo Peres)**

Initiative at the Brookings Institution.

At a summit Tuesday through Thursday in Brazil, the five countries will unveil their version of the IMF: a \$100 billion fund to fight financial crises, called the Contingent Reserve Arrangement. They will also launch a World Bank alternative, a new bank that will make loans for infrastructure projects across the developing world. The IMF has assets of more than \$300 billion; the World Bank, \$490 billion.

The five BRICS countries will each invest \$10 billion in the lender, tentatively called the New Development Bank. Another \$50 billion is expected to come as other countries sign up.

aims and political systems — from India’s raucous democracy to China’s one-party state.

Whatever their differences, the BRICS countries have a shared desire for a bigger voice in global economic policy. After decades of rapid growth, the five countries account for nearly one-fifth of world economic activity. Each has had painful experiences with Western financial dominance: They’ve contended with economic sanctions imposed by Western powers. Or they’ve been forced to make painful budget cuts and meet other strict conditions to qualify for emergency IMF loans.

Russia was burdened with

minister from China, said last week.

Developing countries have also been frustrated because the U.S. Congress has refused to approve legislation providing extra money to help the IMF make more loans to countries in trouble. The money is part of a broader reform program that would give China and other developing countries more voting power at the IMF.

The new financial institutions arrive as developing countries contend with slower economic growth. They also are vulnerable to financial shocks as the U.S. Federal Reserve scales back massive bond purchases meant to stimulate the U.S. economy. As the

to Latin America with President Vladimir Putin. “The fund will be in a position to react promptly to capital outflows, providing liquidity in hard currency, in dollars, in this case.”

Before leaving for the summit Sunday, new Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi acknowledged that “many emerging economies have experienced a slowdown, which has increased the challenge of pursuing inclusive and sustainable economic development.”

Uri Dadush, an economist with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, sees no problem with the BRICS countries’ development bank and financial crisis fund. □



# Lawmakers plan bill to confront immigrant surge

ASHLEY PARKER

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**WASHINGTON** - Two Texas lawmakers plan to introduce a bipartisan bill Tuesday intended to combat the humanitarian crisis at the nation's southern border and make it easier to send migrant children from Central America back to their home countries.

Though the legislation will probably encounter some resistance from congressional Democrats, it comes as the White House has asked for nearly \$4 billion in emergency funds to confront a recent surge in young Central American migrants into Texas and has signaled a willingness to work with Republicans to handle the crisis.

The legislation, by Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the chamber's No. 2 Republican, and Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Texas, would amend a 2008 law - intended to stop sex trafficking - that grants migrant children from Central America extra legal protections when they cross the border, but that President Barack Obama has said makes it harder to return these children quickly to their home countries.

The bipartisan bill is a response to Obama's request last week for a \$3.7 billion supplemental spending bill to curb the surge of more than 57,000 young migrants from Central America into the United States. Though the prospects of a broad immigration overhaul - which passed the Senate with bipartisan support in June 2013 - officially died in the Republican-controlled House this summer, the president's request for emergency funds to fight what he called "an urgent humanitarian situation" has fast turned into a partisan proxy fight over the nation's broken immigration system.

Republicans have signaled that, at the very least, they expect to amend the 2008 law.

The Cornyn-Cuellar bill, known as the Humane Act, would allow children from Central American countries

to opt to be voluntarily sent home, as migrant children from Mexico and Canada can currently choose.

It would also allow children with a legal claim for remaining in the country to make their case before an immigration judge within seven days of undergoing a screening by the Health and Human Services Department. Judges would then have 72 hours after hearing the claim to decide whether the child could remain in the country with a sponsor while pursuing legal action.

The legislation would also authorize up to 40 new immigration judges to expedite the process, and it would require a plan, as well as additional resources, for gaining operational control over 90 percent of the nation's southern border.

The two Republican senators from Arizona, Jeff Flake and John McCain, are working on similar legislation that would amend the 2008 law and increase the number of immigration judges available to hear the cases of unaccompanied minors.

Their bill would also increase the number of refugee visas for Guatemalans, Hondurans and Salvadorans by 5,000 each, to encourage children to seek asylum through legal channels within their home countries.

Congressional Republicans find themselves in a difficult spot. They are reluctant to give Obama what they view as a "blank check" for a problem they say is of his own making. But, having long agitated for stricter border security measures, many Republicans also believe it would be politically untenable for them simply to ignore what they also believe is a crisis at the border.

On Tuesday, a Republican working group investigating the situation at the border and led by Rep. Kay Granger of Texas is expected to brief the House Republican conference on its preliminary findings and recommendations. □



Senate Minority Whip John Cornyn (R-Texas) meets with Megan Mitchell, his communications director, at the Capitol in Washington. Cornyn and Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Texas, plan to introduce a bipartisan bill Tuesday intended to combat the humanitarian crisis at the nation's southern border. (Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

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# Perry-Paul launch foreign policy war of words

STEVE PEOPLES

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Two leading Republicans who could run for president have begun an unusually personal war of words over foreign policy, highlighting a broader divide within the party over international affairs in one of the first public clashes of the Republican Party's presidential primary process.

Sen. Rand Paul on Monday lashed out at his Republican colleague Texas Gov. Rick Perry's weekend charge that Paul's "isolationist" views are dangerous. Paul, a favorite of the conservative tea party movement, responded by taking a swipe at Perry's fashion accessories in an article published in Politico Magazine entitled, "Rick Perry is dead wrong."

"Apparently his new glasses haven't altered his perception of the world, or allowed him to see it any more clearly," wrote Paul. Paul, of Kentucky, continued: "With 60,000 foreign children streaming across the Texas border, I am sur-



**This photo shows Texas Gov. Rick Perry speaking in Ames, Iowa. Two leading Republicans have begun an unusually personal war of words over foreign policy. The dispute between Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul and Texas Gov. Rick Perry highlights a broader divide within the GOP over international affairs in one of the first public clashes of the Republican Party's looming presidential primary.**

(AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

prised Governor Perry has apparently still found time to mischaracterize and attack my foreign policy."

With conflicts escalating

across the globe, foreign policy is poised to become a key issue in the race — especially as the party begins to embrace a libertar-

ian shift on national security and foreign affairs following the long wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Paul has emerged as a

leading voice among conservative activists who favor a dramatically smaller U.S. footprint on the international stage. Perry and other leading Republicans, including Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, support a more aggressive leadership role for the United States, despite polls suggesting that voters have grown war-weary after prolonged military action in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Both Paul and Perry are seriously considering running for president in 2016, but the Republican-on-Republican attack is rare so soon before the party's primary process begins. While Paul has already begun to hire staff in influential early primary states like Iowa and New Hampshire, presidential candidates aren't likely to begin campaigning in earnest until next year.

The intra-party split caught the attention of former Vice President Dick Cheney, who offered a warning on Monday for people who might be tired of war or "don't want to be bothered."

"There is a growing, emerging threat to the United States," he said at a Washington event hosted by Politico. "And in terms of trying to deal with it on a global basis, we're the only ones who can lead that effort. Nobody else can, nobody else will."

Appearing at the same event, Liz Cheney addressed Paul's views directly: "I've got some big concerns about the extent to which Sen. Paul seems to think we can be safe if we just come home and try to build a fortress America. That's clearly not going to work." Paul, meanwhile, has spent much of the last year working to distinguish his views from those of his father, 2012 presidential candidate Ron Paul, who delighted libertarians by calling for the closure of U.S. military bases around the world. The younger Paul does not consider himself an isolationist, but opposes sending any more troops to Iraq. □

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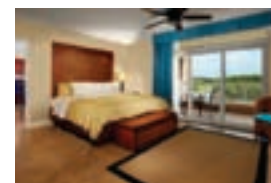
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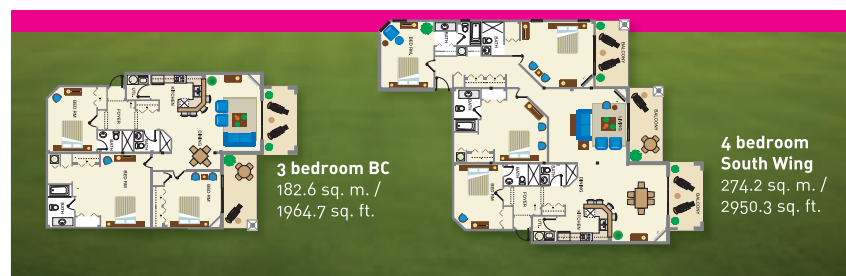
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## US court issues partial win to bin Laden assistant

PETE YOST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

A U.S. appeals court on Monday set aside two of three convictions against a former personal assistant to Osama bin Laden.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit issued the ruling in the case of Ali Hamza al-Bahlul, a Yemeni, who produced propaganda videos for al-Qaida and assisted with preparations for the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

A military commission had convicted him of conspiracy to commit war crimes, providing material support for terrorism and soliciting others to commit war crimes. He has been sentenced to life imprisonment.

The appeals court rejected al-Bahlul's challenge to his conspiracy conviction but overturned his material support and solicitation convictions.

The court, in an opinion by Judge Karen LeCraft Henderson, said the government had offered little backup for the notion that a military commission could try defendants on the charges for which the convictions were overturned — material support for terrorism and solicitation to commit war crimes. On the conspiracy conviction, the appeals court said Congress has positively identified conspiracy as a war crime.

Since the Guantanamo Bay detention center opened at the U.S. Navy base in January 2002, eight prisoners have been convicted of war crimes. One of those cases was overturned by a civilian court and six came through plea bargains. Six others are facing trial, including the five men charged in the Sept. 11 attacks.

Human Rights First, a non-profit group, said the decision highlights the problems of continuing to rely on military commissions to handle such cases. □

## After appeal, jail in NYC Dead Sea Scrolls case

JENNIFER PELTZ

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A man convicted of using digital-age tools to impersonate and malign his father's academic rivals on the ancient subject of the Dead Sea Scrolls was sentenced Monday to two months in jail after the state's highest court tossed out some of his convictions — and with them, a state aggravated-harassment law.

Raphael Golb was re-sentenced on misdemeanor criminal impersonation and forgery charges that the Court of Appeals upheld, even as it overturned his felony identity-theft conviction and declared the aggravated harassment law unconstitutional.

Golb had been sentenced in 2010 to six months in jail but was free on bail during his appeal. He remains free at least until July 22, as a judge postponed his surrender date so he can ask courts to hold off his jail term while he appeals the case further.

Golb was convicted of adopting aliases in derogatory emails and blog posts — including sending emails that seemed like confessions of plagiarism by one of his father's key adversaries in a scholarly debate over the scrolls' origin. Golb told state Supreme Court Justice Laura Ward on Monday that he realized his online campaign was "inappropriate," but he had intended it as satire, not crime.

"I obviously should not have sent out deadpan emails in the names of other individuals," he said, "and I obviously will never do it again." From the start, the case was a rarity. Claims of Internet imitation seldom spur criminal trials at all, let alone tri-

and other cases, but Golb called an unconstitutional intrusion on free-speech rights. The state Legislature has since passed a revised version of the law that backers believe will pass muster with courts.

Containing the earliest

as the Essenes; others — including Golb's father, historian Norman Golb — say the writings were the work of a range of Jewish groups and communities.

Raphael Golb, a literature scholar and now-disbarred lawyer, said his electronic



Raphael Golb enters a courtroom in New York. Golb, who was convicted in 2010 of using digital-age tools to impersonate and malign his father's academic rivals on the ancient subject of the Dead Sea Scrolls, was sentenced on Monday, July 14, 2014, to two months in jail. Golb had been sentenced in 2010 to six months in jail but was free on bail during his appeal.

(AP Photo/ Louis Lanzano)

als that air an abstruse but vigorous scholarly dispute over ancient texts. And with the high court's May ruling, Golb's case gained another distinction: striking down an often-used aggravated harassment law that police and prosecutors saw as an important tool for pursuing domestic violence

known versions of portions of the Hebrew Bible, the scrolls have enhanced scholars' understanding of the history of Judaism and the beginnings of Christianity since their discovery in caves in Israel, beginning in the 1940s. Some researchers believe the texts were assembled by a sect known

barbs were intended to illuminate what he saw as important information about the debate.

But Manhattan Assistant District Attorney John Bandler called Golb's behavior a protracted, malicious effort "to impersonate others and destroy their careers." □

## Chicago police's misconduct files policy praised

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago's decision to publicly release information about completed investigations of police misconduct will shine a light on a department long followed by a reputation for brutality and a code of silence, a law school professor said Monday. The decision announced Sunday by Mayor Rahm Emanuel's office ends a legal fight over the city's long-standing policy of exempting police misconduct incidents from

Freedom of Information Act laws. University of Chicago law professor Craig Futterman said that by forcing the Chicago Police Department to hand over information on specific cases, as well as the names of officers who have been repeatedly accused of misconduct, the department will be forced to investigate patterns of abuse.

The department has never completely shaken its reputation for brutality and misconduct since even before

the vivid footage of officers beating protesters at the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

Emanuel's office said Sunday that the policy will help the city build trust between residents and the police force, while Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy said it will demonstrate that the department takes seriously allegations of police misconduct.

The information released could be especially valuable to prison inmates who

contend they were convicted as a result of a false or coerced confession, said Flint Taylor, an attorney who has handled several wrongful conviction cases and whose office worked on the agreement.

The policy could also prove a powerful incentive for prosecutors to investigate whether detectives have been accused of misconduct before, which Taylor said could "have a dramatic impact on wrongful convictions." □



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## VW to build new SUV in Tennessee, add 2,000 jobs

ERIK SCHELZIG

TOM KRISHER

Associated Press

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** — Volkswagen plans to build a new seven-passenger SUV at its factory in Chattanooga, Tennessee, adding about 2,000 factory jobs as it tries to reverse U.S. sales that have fallen for the past two years.

The German automaker announced Monday that it will invest \$600 million to expand the factory and set up a new research center that will employ about 200 engineers.

The research facility will coordinate products for North America to quickly include customer feedback into planned and existing models, the company said.

The announcement comes after months of political wrangling over the role of organized labor at the factory, which now employs about 2,400 workers and makes only one model, the Passat midsize car.

Production of the new SUV, based on the CrossBlue concept vehicle unveiled in Detroit last year, is scheduled to start at the end of 2016. It gives VW an entry into an important segment of the U.S. market — the family people hauler.

VW sales fell almost 7 percent last year and are down more than 13 percent so far this year, largely because the company doesn't have competitive products in key market segments. VW had a big year in 2012, with sales rising 35 percent to more than 438,000. But sales fell to about 408,000 last year, and the brand sold only 179,000 through June this

year.

"The Volkswagen brand is going on the attack again in America," Martin Winterkorn, chairman of Volkswagen AG's management board, said in a statement, repeating the goal of selling 800,000 Volkswagen brand vehicles in the U.S. by 2018.

February that was narrowly lost by the United Auto Workers.

Republican politicians had warned that a vote for the union could have hurt the chances of the Legislature approving more than \$300 million in incentives.

The new incentive package wasn't announced

ing a \$12 million grant for training new employees, he said.

VW, Smith said, is waiving its right to claim tax credits directly related to the expansion.

Lawmakers aren't scheduled to return to session until January, and the matter likely will be taken up at



**Employees at the Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga, Tenn., work on the assembly of a Passat sedan. Volkswagen on Monday, July 14, 2014 said it will build a new seven-passenger SUV at the Chattanooga factory, adding about 2,000 jobs.**

(AP Photo/Erik Schelzig, File)

Michael Horn, VW's CEO in America, said seven-passenger, three-row SUV sales in the U.S. have almost doubled since 2009 to 1.4 million per year. He also said the new engineering center will broaden VW's portfolio with more new products.

The company plans to add about 538,000 square feet to the existing factory to build the new SUV.

Negotiations over state incentives for the expansion of the plant hit a snag over a union vote at the plant in

Monday, and it's unclear whether ongoing attempts by the UAW to be recognized at the plant will affect legislative approval of the deal.

David Smith, spokesman for Gov. Bill Haslam, said there's no need for a special legislative session to approve the incentives. The state, he said, is providing a \$165.8 million grant to help with site development, infrastructure, production equipment acquisition and installation, and building construction. It also is offer-

that time.

State House Majority Leader Gerald McCormick, a Chattanooga Republican who has been a vocal critic of the UAW organizing effort at the plant, said he doesn't expect the incentive package to face major obstacles.

UAW Secretary-Treasurer Gary Casteel thanked Haslam in a statement "for extending the state and federal incentive funds necessary to make the economics work for the new product line." □

## 2 veteran execs to lead new Fox television group

EMILY STEEL

© 2014 New York Times

21st Century Fox announced Monday that it is combining its broadcasting company and studio group into one business unit, after the recent departure of its top network entertainment executive.

Two veteran Fox executives, Dana Walden and Gary Newman, will lead the new Fox Television Group as joint chairmen and chief executives.

For the past 15 years, the pair have led the 20th Century Fox Television studios. In the new positions, effective later this month, they will continue to lead the studios group and also oversee programming, marketing, digital and other functions for the network.

The executives said during a conference call Monday that while the studio and broadcast groups would operate independently, they would share the creative and financial goals of producing and broadcasting top-notch programming. "To remain competitive, it was time to unify our network and studio," Walden said.

In May, Fox announced that Kevin Reilly was stepping down after seven years as head of entertainment programming. He had more than two years remaining on his contract. Reilly's departure followed a steep decline in the ratings success of "American Idol," a onetime programming juggernaut for the network. □



## US Financial Front:

# Student debt 'help' is often abusive, officials say

RACHEL ABRAMS

JESSICA SILVER-GREEN-  
BERG

© 2014 New York Times

Student loan debt hovers at more than \$1 trillion, a threefold surge from a de-

shift away from their traditional targets - credit card and mortgage debt - to zero in on student loans. The companies are coming under fire for potentially questionable tactics. On

latest scam on the largest group of people who are struggling with the most debt," Madigan said in an interview last week, noting that her office had been inundated with complaints

mated 7 million Americans have defaulted on a total of \$100 billion, with tens of thousands more borrowers defaulting each month, according to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Debt settlement firms gained steam in the aftermath of the mortgage crisis, when millions of American homeowners were left owing far more than their homes were worth. The firms singled out desperate homeowners and promised to help them avert foreclosure, according to interviews with state and federal regulators.

In a typical arrangement, borrowers are told to send their mortgage payments to debt settlement companies instead of to lenders. By withholding payments, the companies promise, the borrowers will coax the lenders into settling for less. The problem, the officials say, is that those promises rarely come through. Not only do most consumers end up with huge debts, but they also severely damage their credit in the

process.

Now the debt settlement companies are quickly repositioning themselves to appeal to people struggling with student loan debt, according to interviews with lawyers and regulators.

"I think these reports from borrowers about some of these companies remind us of some of the worst practices in the wake of the meltdown in the mortgage market," said Rohit Chopra, student loan ombudsman for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

In July, the bureau, which has taken enforcement actions against a number of debt settlement companies, issued a specific warning about companies that claim to help with student loan debt.

In Illinois, where the companies blanketed airwaves with the advertisements, the sheer volume of pitches alarmed the attorney general.

"Once you see posters, something is wrong," Madigan said. □



Tierney Cooke with her dog, Oliver, who along with student debt has hampered her housing searches in New York. (Karsten Moran/The New York Times)

cade ago, and a record number of college students who graduated as the financial system nearly imploded have an average debt load of more than \$20,000.

More than half of recent graduates are unemployed. And if they do have a job, it is probably a low-paying one that does not require that expensive college degree. Some Americans, including baby boomers whose savings were devastated by the financial crisis, are still struggling to pay off their student loans well into their 50s.

For the debt settlement industry, all this means a tantalizing gold mine of new customers.

"Your entire student loan can be forgiven," Broadsword Student Advantage of Carrollton, Texas, boasts in radio ads.

Debt settlement companies, which offer to help borrowers lower their monthly loan payments for a hefty upfront fee, have long been fraught with problems. But federal and state regulators are spotting new instances of abuse as the companies

Monday, Illinois is expected to become the first state to bring legal action against debt settlement companies in connection with their student loan practices, contending in two lawsuits that Broadsword Student Advantage and First American Tax Defense duped vulnerable borrowers into paying for help that never arrived.

In her suit against the companies and their operators, Lisa Madigan, the Illinois attorney general, contends that the businesses lured borrowers into paying hundreds of dollars upfront, and in the case of Broadsword, \$49.99 a month after that, according to copies of the lawsuits reviewed by The New York Times. The companies often misled customers about those fees, according to the suits, and in some instances feigned affiliation with federal relief programs.

In a particularly cruel twist, Madigan said, the companies sometimes charged customers for debt assistance that they could have received free from the Education Department.

"It's just, unfortunately, the

about the debt settlement companies in the past year alone.

Representatives of both companies could not be reached for comment.

Even before the Illinois action Monday, borrowers across the nation had lodged hundreds of thousands of complaints with the Federal Trade Commission about debt settlement and debt collection companies. As the industry has ballooned, so too have the complaints of misleading or outright abusive tactics. In 2013, for example, the number of complaints about the tactics reached 204,644, up about 10 percent from two years earlier. The agency has sued several of what it calls bogus credit-related services that charged distressed borrowers hundreds or thousands of dollars, sometimes without their permission.

The allure of the student debt relief firms reflects a growing crisis, regulators say, as students take on more debt that they simply can't repay. The signs of strain are clear. Of the \$1.2 trillion dollars in outstanding student loan debt in the United States, an esti-



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# At Dinner Tables, Restless Obama Finds Intellectual Escape

**JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS**

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**WASHINGTON** - President Barack Obama had just disembarked from Air Force One and was still on the tarmac in Rome when he turned to his host, John R. Phillips, the U.S. ambassador to Italy, with an unexpected request: How about a dinner party tomorrow night?

Over the next 24 hours, the startled Phillips and his wife, the former Obama aide Linda Douglass, scrambled to gather some of Italy's intellectuals.

The architect Renzo Piano flew in from Genoa. The particle physicist Fabiola Gianotti arrived from Geneva. John Elkann, the chairman of Fiat and the owner of the Italian soccer club Juventus, came too, as did his sister, Ginevra, a film director. Over a 2006 Brunello, grilled rib-eye and three pastas - cacio e pepe, arrabbiata and Bolognese - at Villa Taverna, the 15th-century manor that serves as the ambassador's residence, the group talked until close to midnight about "the importance of

understanding science, the future of the universe, how sports brings people together, and many other things," Douglass said.

In a summer when the president is traveling across

Obama. As one of an increasing number of late-night dinners in his second term, it offers a glimpse into a president who prefers intellectuals to politicians, and into the rarefied com-

pany Obama may keep after he leaves the White House.

make a deliberate effort to expand that." "It keeps life interesting," she added. "It keeps him fresh. It gives him new ideas to think about."

One Saturday night in

about important things," Piano said. He recalled that Obama, who once had dreams of becoming an architect, had many questions about Piano's work.

"It was a real curiosity of a real man who was trying to explore how things happen," Piano said.

In Paris last month, Obama went to another dinner, or rather a second dinner in one evening. After he dined officially with President François Hollande at Le Chiberta, a Michelin-starred restaurant off the Champs-Élysées, he joined friends at the nearby Restaurant Helen for more than two hours. The group included Laurent Delanney, a friend from Obama's college days who is the European chief executive of the ATP World Tour, the professional tennis organization, as well as Jarrett and Susan E. Rice, the national security adviser. Michelle Obama was not on the Paris trip.

Guests at the dinners are typically supporters of the president and sympathetic to his political views, but not always. At the dinner in Rome, one guest was Italo Zanzi, the U.S.-born chief executive of A.S. Roma, another top Italian soccer team. Zanzi was a Republican candidate for Congress in his native New York in 2006, and in 2008 he contributed to the presidential campaign of Sen. John McCain of Arizona, Obama's Republican rival. During his own campaign, Zanzi highlighted his opposition to legislation granting citizenship to illegal immigrants, and he advocated random checks by the police to deport those without legal status.

If there was any tension at the dinner, it was not obvious. Douglass said that Obama laughed as Zanzi and Elkann, of the Juventus soccer club, ribbed each other about their sports rivalry.

"Clearly enough, he was happy to stay, and he spent a long time," Piano said of the president. There was no talk of politics, he said, but Obama seemed to enjoy the back-and-forth. □



**President Barack Obama watches as staff tries to clear the press from the restaurant Le Chiberta during a dinner hosted by President Francois Hollande in Paris, in June, 2014. An increasing number of late-night dinners in Obama's second term offers a glimpse into a president who prefers intellectuals to politicians, and into the rarefied company Obama may keep after he leaves the White House.**

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

the country meeting with "ordinary Americans" under highly choreographed conditions, the Rome dinner shows another side of

pany Obama may keep after he leaves the White House.

Sometimes stretching into the small hours of the morning, the dinners reflect a restless president weary of the obligations of the White House and less concerned about the appearance of partying with the rich and celebrated. Freewheeling, with conversation touching on art, architecture and literature, the gatherings are a world away from the stilted meals Obama had last year with Senate Republican leaders at the Jefferson Hotel in Washington.

As Obama once said about the Senate Republican leader from Kentucky: "Some folks still don't think I spend enough time with Congress. 'Why don't you get a drink with Mitch McConnell?' they ask. Really? Why don't you get a drink with Mitch McConnell?" Valerie Jarrett, the White House senior adviser, who has been asked by the president to organize some of the dinners, was more diplomatic. The president, she told reporters recently, "could talk to the same people all day long, every day, and so he has to

May, Obama was up well past midnight at the White House for a dinner that included Ken Burns, a documentary filmmaker, and his wife, Julie; Anne Wojcicki, the chief executive and a co-founder of the personal genome testing company 23andMe, who brought her sister, Susan, the chief executive of YouTube; and Tom Steyer, a billionaire hedge fund manager and Democratic donor. Michelle Obama was also there, but was not on the trip to Rome. The dinner there was first reported by Politico.

Previous dinners at the White House have drawn varied celebrities, including Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith, Morgan Freeman and Bono. Many of the guests - including the Smiths and Freeman, as well as Anne Wojcicki - have been financial supporters of Obama's campaigns.

In Rome in March, Piano said, the president seemed happy to talk about something other than politics and current events.

"I think he was refreshed to sit down in a beautiful place, with good food, and talking with serenity

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## Fighting rages over Iraqi town north of Baghdad

SINAN SALAHEDDIN  
Associated Press

**BAGHDAD (AP)** — Government forces and allied Sunni tribal fighters battled to dislodge militants from

The clashes in Duluiyah are part of the Islamic State extremist group's larger offensive across Iraq as it tries to expand the territory under its control. The jihadis,

Islamic State group barreled into Duluiyah, some 80 kilometers (45 miles) north of Baghdad, on Sunday, and quickly seized the mayor's office, police station, local

was still raging Monday, officials and a resident said. Jassim Mohammed, who lives in Duluiyah, said dozens of militants in SUVs had pushed into the neighborhoods of Khazraj and Boujwar before facing stiff resistance from the Joubour tribe. The fighting Monday was with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades, and there were casualties on both sides, Mohammed said.

He added that most of the tribesmen battling the militants are members of the local police force, which is largely composed of former soldiers from Saddam Hussein's army.

"They will not give up easily, the battles are fierce and ongoing," Mohammed said. East of Duluiyah, authorities discovered the bodies of 12 men with bullet wounds to the head near the predominantly Sunni village of Nofal, police said. The bodies, which appeared to have been outside for a few days,

were taken to the morgue in the nearby city of Muqaddiya. It was not clear who the men were or why they were killed. But on Saturday there were heavy clashes between the army and Sunni militants who had seized at least partial control of a military base near Nofal. It is possible that the men could have been killed in a feud among Sunni militants.

But for many Iraqis, the discovery, just five days after 50 bodies were found in a field south of Baghdad, conjures up memories of the country's sectarian bloodletting of 2006 and 2007, deepening fears the nation could be heading down that path again.

Sunni-Shiite tensions have risen dramatically since the Sunni militant offensive began last month with the capture of the northern city of Mosul. The blitz has slowed since its initial burst, but the insurgents have vowed to push on to Baghdad. □



A Kurdish Peshmerga fighter stands guard as new equipment arrives at Kalak refinery on the outskirts of Irbil, Iraq, Monday, July 14, 2014, as Kurdish authorities are trying to help ease the fuel shortage. Islamic militants have laid siege to Iraq's largest oil refinery in the city of Beiji.

(AP Photo)

a small town along the Tigris River on Monday, while authorities discovered 12 bloated bodies with gunshots to the head near another village north of the capital, officials said.

along with other Sunni militants, have already seized control of much of northern and western Iraq, touching off the country's worst crisis since U.S. troops left in 2011. Fighters from Is-

council and courthouse. They also blew up a bridge connecting the town with the nearby city of Balad. The Iraqi military launched a counterattack, but the fighting bogged down and

## UN evacuates from Libya amid clashes

**CAIRO (AP)** — The United Nations said on Monday it is withdrawing its staff from Libya temporarily because of deteriorating security after rival militias fought over Tripoli International Airport and a renegade general's forces continued to battle Islamist militias in the eastern city of Benghazi. In a statement posted on its official website, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya said that the mission had already been reducing its staff in the country over the past week. It added that fighting on Sunday and the airport's closure prompted the move to withdraw its staffers.

"This is a temporary measure. Staff will return as soon as security conditions permit. The United Nations, which stood by the Libyan people in their revolution in 2011, will not abandon them as they seek to build a democratic state," the statement said. It added: "The United Nations looks forward to continuing to work with its Libyan partners and hopes to return to Tripoli as soon as possible." Tripoli is witnessing one of its worst spasms of violence since the ouster of longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011, as rival militias fight for control of its airport. The militias, many of

which originate from rebel forces that fought Gadhafi, became powerful players in post-war Libya, filling a void left by weak police and a shattered army. Successive governments have put militias on their payroll in return for maintaining order, but rivalries over control and resources have led to fierce fighting among them and posed a constant challenge to the central government and a hoped-for transition to democracy. At least six people were killed and 25 injured Sunday in the battle over the airport between rival militias. □

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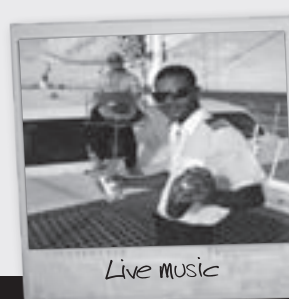


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A Ukrainian government soldier guards a checkpoint just outside the city of Siversk, Donetsk region, eastern Ukraine. A Ukrainian military transport plane was shot down Monday along the country's eastern border with Russia but all eight people aboard managed to bail out safely, the defense ministry said.

(AP Photo/Evgeniy Maloletka)

### **Ukraine:**

## **Military plane shot down by rocket**

**PETER LEONARD**  
**Associated Press**

**KIEV, Ukraine (AP)** — A Ukrainian military transport plane was shot down Monday along the country's eastern border with Russia but all eight people aboard managed to bail out safely, the defense ministry said.

Separatist rebels in conflict-racked eastern Ukraine claimed responsibility for downing the Antonov-26, but Ukrainian officials swiftly ruled that out and blamed Russia instead.

There was no immediate comment from Russia on the plane.

In the last two weeks, the government has halved the territory in eastern Ukraine held by pro-Russia separatists, who have been forced back into the cities of Luhansk and Donetsk. Many in the armed insurgency are known to be Russian nationals, but Moscow says they are simply citizens who went to fight in Ukraine on

their own.

Defense Minister Valeriy Heletey said the plane was flying at an altitude of about 6,500 meters (21,300 feet), which he said was too high to be reached with the weapons used by the separatists. Rebels are known to have Igla portable surface-to-air missiles, which work up to about 3,500 meters. Ukraine's Security Council spokesman Andrei Lysenko said data from the plane's surviving crew suggested the rocket was either a surface-to-air Pantsir missile or a missile fired by a plane from Russia's Millerovo Air Force base. In London, Charles Heyman, a defense analyst who edits a book called "Armed Forces of the European Union," said the missile was more likely fired by the Ukrainian rebels.

"I doubt the transport plane was flying at 6,500 meters. That doesn't make sense. The higher you fly, the more it costs, and the

plane would have had to be pressurized," Heyman said. "It was probably shot down using SAM-6 missiles owned by the rebels, which they have quite a few of." Fighting intensified around Luhansk, meanwhile, as government forces stepped up efforts to disrupt rebel lines and reclaim more territory. The Defense Ministry said Monday that government troops had retaken several villages around Luhansk — including Metalist, Oleksandrivsk, Bile and Rozkishne — and had reopened a corridor to its civilian airport. Those areas are north, west and south of the city, suggesting the government's plan to form a security cordon around Luhansk is yielding results. One Luhansk resident named Sergei told The Associated Press that panic had gripped the city Monday over reports that Ukrainian paratroopers were slipping in and detaining rebel fighters. □

## **Sunni jihadi group expels rivals out from Syrian city**

**BARBARA SURK**  
**Associated Press**

**BEIRUT (AP)** — A Sunni extremist group in Syria took over opposition-held areas of a provincial capital near the border with Iraq on Monday after expelling rival fighters from an al-Qaida-linked group, activists said.

The march by militants of the Islamic State group on the city of Deir el-Zour brings them closer to a showdown with President Bashar Assad's forces. They recently captured cities and towns in northern Iraq and merged them with much of the territory under its control in eastern Syria.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human rights said militants from IS took over the area from fighters of the rival al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front group, who withdrew after clashes. The new developments effectively expand and consolidate areas held by fighters from the Islamic State group in territory straddling the border between the two conflict-ridden countries of Syria and Iraq.

The group, which now controls large parts of northern Syria, is almost in full control of oil-rich Deir el-Zour province in the east, stretching from the Syrian border town of Boukamal to the provincial capital to the northwest. Assad's forces still control half of Deir el-Zour city, and no fighting between his troops and the extremist group was reported there.

Led by an ambitious Iraqi militant known as Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the Islamic State group unilaterally declared the es-

tablishment of an Islamic state, or caliphate, in the lands it has seized in Syria and Iraq. It proclaimed al-Baghdadi the head of its new self-styled state and demanded that all Muslims pledge allegiance to him.

Most significant Syrian rebel groups that have been fighting to overthrow Assad have rejected al-Baghdadi's declaration. The rebel groups, including the Nusra Front, have fought the extremist group since the beginning of the year. Nearly 7,000 people, mostly fighters, have died in the infighting, and tens of thousands of civilians have been forced from their homes.

However, Nusra Front appears to be losing the war within a war in Syria as fighters allied with powerful tribes in the country's east defect to al-Baghdadi's group. The Syrian conflict began in March 2011 as largely peaceful protests against Assad's rule, but turned into an armed revolt after some opposition supporters took up weapons to fight a brutal government crackdown on dissent. It deteriorated into civil war in which Islamic extremists, including foreign fighters and Syrian rebels, who have adopted hard-line al-Qaida-style ideologies, have played an increasingly prominent role among the fighters, dampening the West's support for the rebellion. Also Monday, the U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a resolution authorizing cross-border delivery of desperately needed food and aid to Syrians in rebel-held areas, without government approval. □





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## Egypt presents cease-fire plan to Israel and Hamas

MAGGIE MICHAEL  
Associated Press

**CAIRO (AP)** — Egypt presented a cease-fire plan Monday to end a week of heavy fighting between Israel and Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip that has left at least 185 people dead. The proposal marked the most serious attempt yet by international mediators to end the conflict. A senior Hamas official said the group was open to the plan. Israel had no immediate reaction, but local media quoted officials as saying the government was considering it seriously. Israel is demanding guarantees of an extended period of quiet, while Hamas seeks an easing of an Israeli-Egyptian blockade on Hamas-controlled Gaza. Israel launched the offensive last Tuesday, saying it was a response to weeks of heavy rocket fire out of

Hamas-ruled Gaza. Palestinian medical officials say 185 people, including dozens of civilians, have been killed. The Israelis have suffered no fatalities, thanks in large part to a new rocket-defense system that has intercepted dozens of incoming projectiles. With the death toll mounting, both sides have come under increasing international pressure to halt the fighting. Late Monday, Egypt's Foreign Ministry announced a three-step plan starting with a temporary cease-fire to go into effect within 12 hours of "unconditional acceptance" by the two sides. That would be followed by the opening of Gaza's border crossings and talks in Cairo between the sides within two days, according to the statement. In a speech broadcast on



A Palestinian confronts an Israeli soldier, left, during a demonstration against Israeli military action in Gaza, near the West Bank town of Nablus, Monday, July 14, 2014.

(AP Photo/Nasser Ishtayeh)

Al-Jazeera, Ismail Haniyeh, "diplomatic movement." He said Hamas was seeking not only an end to the fighting, but also an easing of a blockade that has crippled life in Gaza. □

## Pakistani teen Malala seeks release of missing Nigerians

LEKAN OYEKANMI  
MICHELLE FAUL  
Associated Press

**ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)** — The Pakistani teen who survived a Taliban assassination attempt in 2012 marked her 17th birthday Monday with a visit to Nigeria and urged Islamic extremists to free the 219 schoolgirls who were kidnapped there, calling them her "sisters." Malala Yousafzai, who has become an international symbol for women's rights in the face of hard-line Islam, said Nigeria's president promised to meet for the first time with the abducted girls' parents. "My birthday wish this year is 'Bring Back Our Girls' now and alive," she said, using

the social media slogan that has been picked up around the world to demand freedom for the girls, who were abducted by the extremist group Boko Haram in April from a school in the remote northeast Nigerian town of Chibok. Malala appealed directly to their captors as she held hands with some of the girls who escaped. "Lay down your weapons. Release your sisters. Release the daughters of this nation. Let them be free. They have committed no crime." She added: "You are misusing the name of Islam ... Islam is a religion of peace." □



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## ECB's Draghi: Stronger euro could hurt recovery

DAVID McHUGH  
PAN PYLAS

Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany

(AP) — European Central Bank head Mario Draghi said Monday that a stronger euro would put at risk the shaky recovery in the 18 countries that use the shared currency.

Draghi made the remark to legislators in the European Parliament in Strasbourg amid worries that the modest rebound in Europe is stalling. Data showed in-

He said that the exchange rate "remains an important driver of future inflation in the euro area," adding that in the present context, an appreciated exchange rate is a risk to the sustainability of the recovery."

Draghi gave little indication that the bank was ready to move beyond its current efforts to raise inflation and spur the economy. The ECB has raised the possibility of buying financial assets such as government bonds to pump new money into

from the bank's previous meetings where it has said it is ready to deploy such unconventional tools if the inflation outlook worsens and prices levels do not eventually start rising toward the bank's goal of just under 2 percent.

Some economists think Draghi and the ECB will be reluctant to go down that route, partly because of technical problems such as how to buy assets — and which ones — across a currency bloc compris-



President of European Central Bank Mario Draghi talks during a news conference in Frankfurt, Germany, following a meeting of the ECB governing council. Draghi said Monday that a stronger euro would put at risk the shaky recovery in the 18 countries that use the shared currency.

(AP Photo/Michael Probst)

dustrial production fell by 1.1 percent in May in the currency zone.

A stronger euro would hurt export-dependent businesses. However Draghi offered no new steps to boost the economy beyond the raft of measures the bank announced on May 8. Markets shrugged off the remark and the euro traded little changed at around \$1.36.

At that level, it is down from its 2014 peak of just below \$1.40, its highest in 2 1/2 years. Draghi said that while the bank does not target any particular exchange rate it would monitor the effect of any appreciation of the euro because that would affect the inflation rate, the bank's chief policy target.

the economy. That would be aimed at raising the worrisome low rate of inflation of only 0.5 percent. And it could also weaken the euro's exchange rate. With the economy barely growing and not creating many jobs, politicians are piling pressure on the central bank. If needed, the ECB could further loosen its monetary policy through interest rate cuts or launch a monetary stimulus similar to those undertaken by the U.S. Federal Reserve and the Bank of England. Those programs involve injecting new money into the economy by buying large amounts of bonds and other financial assets.

Asked about asset purchases, Draghi referred legislators to statements

ing 18 countries. Draghi has said such a program, called quantitative easing or QE, is within the bank's mandate and could be used if needed.

The International Monetary Fund on Monday added to the debate, saying the ECB should undertake a "substantial balance sheet expansion, including through asset purchases" if inflation fails to pick up.

The IMF suggested in its regular report on the eurozone economy that the ECB should buy its member states' government debt to "reduce government bond yields, induce higher equity and corporate bond values, and ultimately raise demand and inflation expectations across the euro area." □

## China indicts US, British corporate investigators

GILLIAN WONG  
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese authorities have indicted British and American investigators hired by GlaxoSmithKline on charges of illegally obtaining and selling private information, state media reported Monday, as the Briton blamed the pharmaceutical company for misleading and using him.

British investigator Peter Humphrey and his wife Yingzeng Yu, a U.S. citizen, were charged in Shanghai's No. 1 Intermediate People's Court, the official Xinhua News Agency said. It said this is the first time foreigners have faced such charges.

Humphrey, 58, and Yu, 61, are part of an industry of investigators who help corporate clients screen potential partners and employees or watch for embezzlement and other employee misconduct.

Their arrest last year coincided with a Chinese investigation of accusations that GlaxoSmithKline paid bribes to doctors and officials to use its medications. Glaxo said it hired Yu and Humphrey last year to investigate a security breach involving a top manager.

The indictment received prominent coverage in China. Reports by state broadcaster CCTV showed Humphrey and Yu being separately interviewed by Chinese reporters. They were shown seated and wearing orange vests that are typical uniforms of detainees as they spoke to reporters.

The couple, who ran a Shanghai firm, ChinaWhys Ltd., were accused of illegally selling a "huge amount" of personal information on Chinese citizens, Xinhua said. It said that included home addresses, information about family members, details about real estate and vehicles and records of travelers entering and leaving the country. Prosecutors say they obtained such information by illegally buying it from others as well as with hidden cameras or by following people, Xinhua said. It said they would sell the reports to clients that were mainly multinational companies in China such as GSK China. In Chinese media reports on Monday, Humphrey said he was contacted in April 2013 by GSK's then-China manager, Mark Reilly, who wanted him to find out who leaked allegations of bribery at the firm to Chinese authorities and senior executives at the firm.

Reilly, who is British, is at the center of a major investigation into corruption in China's medical industry. In May, he was accused of leading a sprawling scheme to bribe doctors and hospitals to use GSK's drugs. Reilly's case has been turned over to prosecutors.

Humphrey said on state television that he found out during his investigation that the bribery claims were true and if he had known that earlier he would not have carried out the probe. Humphrey said he felt "betrayed and used" by the pharmaceutical firm.

In a written response to a request for comment, Glaxo cited a July 3 statement that said Humphrey and Yu's firm was hired in April 2013 to investigate "a serious breach of privacy and security related to" Reilly.

"They were not hired to investigate the substance of the allegations of misconduct made by the whistleblower," the company said in an email.

The British Embassy in Beijing said it was providing consular help to Humphrey and his family and have told Chinese authorities they would like to attend the trial, which the court has said will be closed. A trial date hasn't been announced yet.

"We have made clear to the Chinese authorities that we would like Embassy staff to attend the trial and the need for a transparent and fair process," the embassy said in an emailed response to questions. □





## Dripping wet fresh Dutch Mussels now at Papillon Restaurant

**PALM BEACH** - At fabulous Papillon Restaurant the year is divided into culinary seasons: there is game at the end of the year, there is the white gold (asparagus) in the spring, there are berries in all colors in the summer

beer, funchi, French bread and potatoes. Both styles are not to be sneezed at, so try them both! Reservations are recommended at Papillon, which is located in The Village across from the Radisson Resort on the hi-rise strip. □



and yes, there are Dutch Mussels in July and August. Justly considered a delicacy, the mussels are tender and tasty, with the scent of the North Sea still clinging to them. Mussels are traditionally served in black pots and Papillon has stacks of them standing at the ready for the influx of mussel lovers, who are chomping at the bit to taste them again. The mussels are served in two styles: the classic way, steeped in white wine with a garnish of vegetables and served with French bread, a salad and French fries or new potatoes or the local way with Balashi

## Cecelia Carew & Stephanie Joyner honored by ATA



**EAGLE BEACH** - Recently Cecelia Carew and daughter Stephanie Joyner were both presented with their "Distinguished Visitor" certificates. The ceremony was conducted by Jonathan Boekhoudt at the Costa Linda Beach Resort. Cecelia and Stephanie are from Mount Vernon, New York and have been coming to Aruba since 2004. They like the island especially for the weather, beach, people and variety of restaurants. On the photo: Cecelia, Stephanie, Gloria and Lina from the Costa Linda. □



# Kaweta is looking for friends and family members

**BRINGAMOS** - We would like to introduce Kaweta to you, one of the donkeys that has found a home at the Aruba Donkey Sanctuary. At four a.m. a call came in that a donkey had been hit by a car at Savaneta. The problem is that when the weather has been dry too long, the roaming donkeys go to the more populated areas on the island to find water. Fortunately Kaweta could be caught right away and he was taken to the vet, who ordered an emergency operation. The result was 12 pins in the bone. Kaweta had to stay in the intensive care unit, hanging in a sling. And that was not all: because he had grated his head on the road, part of his nostril had disappeared. But fortunately Kaweta is doing okay now. There was a moment of panic when the poor donkey did not wake up from the anaesthetic, but after a while things did turn out well.

This beautiful donkey has been provided with a chip, just like all the other donkeys. On the chip is information about the donkey and its medical history. The don-



keys at the sanctuary have a lot of friends with whom they can play all day long. And they love living there: they are well-cared for, they are fed and watered and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive

customers for the sanctuary.

The volunteers are trying to cover the various costs with all kinds of activities and the sale of great donkey memorabilia in the shop. Fortunately, there are also visitors who wish to adopt a donkey, who

buy something at the donkey shop or who make a donation. Thus they help support us. Everyone is welcome to visit the sanctuary, which has opening hours from 9 am until 4 pm and in the weekend from 10 am until 3. Entry is free of charge and one can enjoy a soft drink, a cup of coffee or a refreshing ice cream.

The volunteers of the sanctuary are hoping that somebody will adopt this friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary; you only need to pay AWG. 30,- per month for the donkey's keep. With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super T-shirt and your name and photo will be posted on our website. So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933; you can also register via the website [www.arubandonkey.org](http://www.arubandonkey.org) or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba Bank! Just do it! Would you like to follow the donkeys on Facebook: surf to Donkey Sanctuary Aruba please. ☐

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**Driftwood Restaurant.** This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

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## De Suikertuin hosting Vegetarian Evening with organic wines



**ORANJESTAD** - Restaurant De Suikertuin in the Wilhelminastraat, Oranjestad, is organizing a special event: a Vegetarian Evening with guest chef Rodney Theysen. The date: Saturday, July 19.

The Vegetarian Evening is one of a series of upcoming events at De Suikertuin: an Indonesian Night as well as a Healthy Cooking workshop by (Rent a ) Chef Bas Kuurstra and more are in

the planning.

The Vegetarian Evening will be a feast for the taste buds.

They will be bombarded with all kinds of delicious combinations; the wines that evening are organic sangrias (Eppa SupraFruta) from Pepia Est. Spinach soup is the second appetizer of the evening; a samosa is served first.

A samosa is a pastry filled with curried potatoes, car-

rots and peas, served with a wholegrain mustard, cilantro and yoghurt sauce. Main courses are a Patagon Slider, plantains with Portobello mushrooms, blue cheese, tomatoes and arugula lettuce, an iceberg salad wrap with rice noodles and bean sprouts, Tabulah, a Bulgar grain salad and stuffed peppers. But beware: dessert will take your breath away. Expect an avocado ga-

teau, with avocado and chocolate pudding layers between Marie crackers which have been soaked in brandy and espresso coffee. Most intriguing!

Chef Rodney is Mr. Cool himself, not frazzled at all as yet. "Just come to De Suikertuin on July 19 and tell me how you like my dishes," he says.

The price of the Vegetarian Evening is either AWG. 55,- or AWG. 85,- with anti-oxi-

dant-rich, organic Eppa SupraFruta Sangrias and Port from Pepia Est included. The sangrias have a natural sweetness that comes from a blend of real fruit juices.

Make your reservations for the Vegetarian Evening as soon as possible: judging from the previous Vegetarian Evening at De Suikertuin, it may be sold out in no time flat! Call 582 6322 for reservations; the address is Wilhelminastraat 64. □

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**EAGLE BEACH** - Kenneth Wilson has been calling Aruba his home away from home for over 20 years and for this reason he was presented with the "Goodwill Ambassador" certificate. Kenneth is a longtime owner at the La Cabana Resort & Casino and first visited Aruba in 1992. He is a Tae Kwando Masters in Groton Massachusetts and plans to retire to Aruba to open up a dojo. The ceremony was conducted by Jonathan Boekhoudt together with Sharine Charles, La Cabana representative. □



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This combination made from file photos shows Seattle Mariners starting pitcher Felix Hernandez, left, and St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Adam Wainwright. Hernandez will start Tuesday night's All-Star game for the American League and Wainwright will open for the National League.

Associated Press

## Hernandez vs Wainwright in All-Star game

**RONALD BLUM**  
AP Sports Writer

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Seattle's Felix Hernandez will start Tuesday night's All-Star game for the American League and Adam Wainwright of the St. Louis Cardinals will open for the National League.

Hernandez, the first Venezuelan pitcher to start for the All-Stars, is 11-2 with a 2.12 ERA. He is the second Seattle pitcher to start an All-Star game following Randy Johnson in 1995 and 1997. "Just throw zeros out there and get my team to win, that's all I got to do," Hernandez said.

nandez said.

NL manager Mike Matheny of the Cardinals chose the ace of his own staff. Wainwright is 12-4 with a 1.83 ERA and three complete games in 19 starts. It will be the 11th All-Star start by a Cardinals pitcher.

"Aside from having the ability to win two World Series with the St. Louis Cardinals, I think this has to be one of the highlights of my baseball career to this point," Wainwright said. "One of the coolest things I can say I did is to start a big league All-Star game."

Yankees shortstop Derek

Jeter, a 14-time All-Star who is playing his final season, will lead off for the AL.

"It's a rare and unique opportunity," AL manager John Farrell of the Boston Red Sox said. "At the same time we are able to celebrate a player who is not only a champion, but a guy that sets the bar that I think all players should aspire to. The way he has handled himself with class, with performance — no doubt a Hall of Famer."

Wainwright is enticed by pitching to Jeter.

"I have been in the big leagues for nine years. I've

never faced him," Wainwright said. "I'm very excited about it, just to say I faced the best. And he is undoubtedly one of the best to ever play his position, one of the greatest Yankees of all time."

The Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout bats second and plays left, followed by Seattle second baseman Robinson Cano, Detroit first baseman Miguel Cabrera, Toronto right fielder Jose Bautista, Baltimore designated hitter Nelson Cruz, Orioles center fielder Adam Jones, Oakland third baseman Josh Donaldson and

Kansas City catcher Salvador Perez.

Pittsburgh center fielder Andrew McCutchen leads off for the NL, followed by Los Angeles Dodgers right fielder Yasiel Puig, Colorado shortstop Troy Tulowitzki and Arizona first baseman Paul Goldschmidt.

Miami's Giancarlo Stanton will be the DH and bat fifth. He will be followed by Milwaukee third baseman Aramis Ramirez, Philadelphia second baseman Chase Utley, Milwaukee catcher Jonathan Lucroy and Brewers left fielder Carlos Gomez. □



# Derek Jeter, an All-Star for the last time

By DAVE CAMPBELL

AP Sports Writer

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Derek Jeter was an elite short-stop winning World Series championships not long after many of baseball's current greats were born. With the captain of the New York Yankees set to retire after the season, Jeter's 14th All-Star game will be his last. His first one as a starter in 2000 was special, as was the 2008 version at Yankee Stadium. So don't expect him to declare his final appearance his favorite, or an experience he'll find himself savoring any more than usual.

"This is a game that I've truly always looked forward to. I've appreciate the time that I've had here. So it's kind of difficult to say that I'll try to enjoy it more," Jeter said on Monday amid a predictably large crowd of cameras and reporters during the media interview session for the American League players.

Though the Yankees have been hovering around the .500 mark, Jeter has said many times he's only focused on chasing another championship, not gathering farewell gifts or reflecting nostalgically on his ex-



**American League short stop Derek Jeter, of the New York Yankees, waits to hit during batting practice for the MLB All-Star baseball game, Monday, July 14, 2014, in Minneapolis.**

Associated Press

ceptional career. That part has been left up to everyone else around the game.

Tampa Bay Rays pitcher David Price said Jeter's final presence was what ex-

cited him the most about this year's event.

"I know the All-Star game isn't about a certain player or a certain team, but I feel like it is. This is about Derek Jeter. And the National League guys, they understand that as well," Price said.

For Minnesota Twins closer Glen Perkins, Jeter has been one of those "guys you can tell your grandkids about" pitching to. St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Adam Wainwright, who'll start the All-Star game for the National League on Tuesday night at Target Field, will throw his first pitch to Jeter when the 40-year-old steps to the plate as the AL leadoff man.

"I'm very excited about it, just to say I faced the best," Wainwright said. "And he is undoubtedly one of the best to ever play his position."

To Jeter's left will be second baseman Robinson Cano, who left the Yankees in the offseason and signed with the Seattle Mariners.

"I'm really happy that I'll be able to be a part of his final All-Star game and be on the same team. It's pretty amazing," Cano said. "He's one of the big-

gest parts of my career. He was one of those guys when I first came up who was there on and off the field."

To Jeter's right will be third baseman Josh Donaldson, who recalled a double he hit for the Oakland Athletics in his first time playing against Jeter and the Yankees in 2012.

"He was like, 'Hey, good swing, kid,'" Donaldson said. "I was like, 'Thanks, Mr. Jeter.'"

Jeter was that wide-eyed youngster in 1998 when he appeared in his first All-Star game, in Denver.

"Cal was there and I was afraid to say anything, because it's Cal Ripken," Jeter said. "Even though I'd played against him, I barely had a chance to talk to him."

Then there was 1999, in Boston.

"They had all the great players come on the field. I got a tap on my shoulder, and it was Hank Aaron, and he said he was looking for me because he wanted to meet me. He wanted to meet me. That's something that stands out. That's one of the best moments I've had on the baseball field," Jeter said. □



**In this March 8, 1962 file photo Felipe Alou, outfielder for the San Francisco Giants, poses in Casa Grande, Ariz.**

Associated Press

JANIE McCAULEY  
AP Baseball Writer

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Felipe Alou and Orlando Cepeda knew little English when they arrived in the

minor leagues in the mid-1950s, putting them among the first wave of Spanish-speaking players thrown into a different culture to play professional baseball,

## Alou, Cepeda happy with progress of young Latinos

build new lives and send money back home.

It was their chance to make it in the sport they loved, provided they could overcome challenges that often extended beyond the field.

Early on, well before blossoming into a Hall of Famer, Cepeda was told by a manager to go home to Puerto Rico and learn English before coming back to his career in the U.S. Alou had similar experiences and forced himself to speak some English when he arrived from the Dominican Republic, yet he still lacked confidence in the language.

"Coming here my first year, everything was a novelty to me, a surprise," Cepeda

recalled. "When I came to Virginia, I was there for one month and my father died. My dad said, 'I want to see my son play pro ball,' and he died the day before I played my first game in Virginia." "From there I went to Puerto Rico and when I came back here, I had to come back because we didn't have no money and my mother said, 'You've got to go back and send me money, we don't have money to eat,'" he said.

That was a common sentiment then, and is often still the case nearly 60 years later.

Both of these longtime baseball men are encouraged to see so many young players from Latin America now arriving in the

United States with better English skills, thanks in large part to all 30 major league organizations putting more emphasis into such training through academies in the Dominican and Venezuela. There also are English classes offered to young players during spring training and into extended spring, plus through the various levels of the minor leagues.

Every big league club now has an academy in the Dominican Republic.

"Of course, we didn't have those opportunities," said Alou, who managed the Expos and Giants. "Usually, when we came, we were a little older than what the average kid is now. We had played more baseball." □



# Watson watching Woods closely for Ryder Cup team

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

HOYLAK, England (AP) —

U.S. captain Tom Watson had been looking forward to seeing Tiger Woods at the British Open to "tell him my feelings about him direct" about the Ryder Cup. On second thought, there's not much to say.

"Not a whole lot, probably," Watson said Monday. "Again, it's performance. I could ask Tiger, 'How are you feeling? How are you feeling like you're hitting the ball? Are you hitting it well?' And that doesn't mean anything, really. The performance means something. I'll be watching Tiger and I want him on the team — I do. He's a tough competitor and he's great in the team room. Wouldn't you want him on your team?"

Woods has three tournaments to give Watson an indication of his game.

The 14-time major champion was out for three months because of back surgery, and he wasn't playing well in the months leading to the March 31 operation as his back pain became more evident. Woods is No. 72 in the Ryder Cup standings with only five weeks remaining to earn one of nine spots.

He is a long shot to make the team, though a victory at Royal Liverpool — or the PGA Championship — would do the trick.

Watson repeated the two factors that matter to him — the game and the health of Woods. And he was careful not to speculate what would happen if Woods failed to get into the FedEx Cup playoffs for the top 125. Woods is at No. 212 with three tournaments remaining.

"If he's playing well and he's healthy, I'll pick him," Watson said. "But then the caveat is if he doesn't get into the FedEx Cup. What to do then? And that's the question I can't answer right now."

Woods has the Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone (\$9 million purse) and the PGA Championship (\$10 million purse, with points doubled)



Tiger Woods of the US walks on the 2nd green during a practice round at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club prior to the start of the British Open Golf Championship, in Hoylake, England, Saturday, July 12, 2014. The 2014 Open Championship starts on Thursday, July 17. Associated Press

before the Ryder Cup qualifying period ends. Watson will make his three picks after the second FedEx Cup event.

"I can't speculate how he's going to be playing through the PGA," Watson said. "I hope that he's playing well enough where he gets in the FedEx Cup and plays a few tournaments in the FedEx Cup. That's my sincere hope, that he plays well. And I suspect he'll be there."

Woods won at Royal Liverpool in 2006. He returns to a course that is green and lush, a sharp difference from last time when it was brown and fast. He played 12 holes Saturday and 18 holes Sunday, and was not at the course for much of Monday.

He has said his intention is to win this week, having returned three weeks ago at Congressional with plenty of rust in his short game. Woods missed the cut.

Watson likes the way Woods is thinking, and hopes every player in the

field has the same intention.

"Just put it this way: I wouldn't write off Tiger Woods for a long time the way he plays the game," Watson said. "He's a tough

competitor. He knows how to swing the golf club. And yes, he's had some injuries and other things — issues. But the thing is, he's had a long career. And I fully expect it to be a longer ca-

reer."

Woods has made every Ryder Cup team since he turned pro except for 2010, when he was returning from a scandal in his private life that led to divorce. □

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## Dupree leads Mercury to 10th straight win



Minnesota Lynx forward Maya Moore shoots over Seattle Storm guard Tanisha Wright during the third quarter of a WNBA basketball game Sunday, July 13, 2014, in Minneapolis. Moore had a game-high 26 points. Minnesota won 77-60.

Associated Press

**The Associated Press**  
**PHOENIX (AP) — PHOENIX (AP)** — Candice Dupree scored 15 of her 19 points in the first half as the Phoenix Mercury lengthened their franchise-best winning streak to 10 games with a 90-61 victory Sunday over the San Antonio Stars. The Mercury (16-3) used a second quarter run to take a 20-point lead at the break and led by as much as 31 in the second half in winning their 12th game in

the last 13 and have the best record in the league by 1.5 games with the All-Star break coming at the end of the week. Diana Taurasi had nine points, eight rebounds and eight assists in 24 minutes while Brittney Griner recorded 10 points, six rebounds and a blocked shot. She has 75 blocks on the season, more than twice as many as any other player in the league. Danielle Robinson had

eight points and Jayne Appel added six points and seven rebounds for San Antonio (11-11), which has lost two straight after winning four of five. SPARKS 90, SUN 64 UNCAVILLE, Connecticut (AP) — Nneka Ogumike had 24 points and seven rebounds as the Sparks used a big third quarter to rout the Connecticut Sun and her sister Chiney. It was the first matchup of the Ogumike sisters, who

were only the second set of siblings to be drafted No. 1 in a professional league. Chiney Ogumike finished with 18 points for the Sun (9-13), who have lost seven of their past eight games. The Sparks led by four points early in the second half when Nneka Ogumike made two free throws, followed by a running jumper. Alana Beard, Ogumike and Lavender each added a jumper to give Los

Angeles its first double-digit lead at 54-42. Armintie Herrington's 18-foot jumper gave Los Angeles its biggest lead at 84-53 with over four minutes left in the game. DREAM 81, SKY 79, OT ATLANTA (AP) — Angel McCoughtry matched a season high with 33 points, Tiffany Hayes hit the clinching free throws with 29 seconds remaining as the Dream beat the Sky for their fourth straight victory. □

## Dempsey scores as Seattle beats Portland 2-0



Seattle Sounders' Clint Dempsey leaps in the air after he scored a goal against the Portland Timbers, in the second half of an MLS soccer match, Sunday, July 13, 2014, in Seattle. The Sounders won 2-0.

Associated Press

**SEATTLE (AP)** — Clint Dempsey scored for Seattle from a wild scramble in the 71st minute in his return to Major League Soccer following the World Cup as the Sounders beat rival Portland 2-0 on Sunday, their second victory over the Timbers in four days. Dempsey and Obafemi Martins were both denied by Portland goalkeeper Donovan Ricketts earlier in the sequence before

the ball eventually landed at the feet of Gonzalo Pineda and his pass found Dempsey open in front of the net for his first goal with Seattle since April. Seattle defeated Portland 3-1 in extra time in the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open Cup earlier this week and moved 10 points clear of second place Real Salt Lake in the MLS Western Conference with the victory. □





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# Nibali excels at Tour as Contador crashes out

**JAMEY KEATEN**  
**Associated Press**

**PLANCHER-LES-MINES, France (AP)** — After just 10 stages, the two pre-race favorites have crashed out of the Tour de France. And Vincenzo Nibali is wasting little time in showing that he's now the man to beat. On Monday, the Italian narrowly dodged a spill by Alberto Contador that left the two-time Tour champion with a fractured shin. Nibali went on to barrel past a panting breakaway rider to win a fog-and-rain coated, up-and-down Stage 10 and recover the yellow jersey that he had lost only a day earlier.

It didn't come easy. "This was the hardest stage I've ever done in a Grand Tour, with seven climbs and so many crashes," said Nibali.

Contador's mishap has given this 101st edition of cycling's greatest event a dubious distinction of being the first in recent memory to force out its two top stars to crash injuries. Five stages earlier, reigning champ Chris Froome quit with a broken wrist and hand sustained in a string of spills.

As the race enters its first rest day on Tuesday, Nibali — who has already won the Spanish Vuelta and Italian Giro — looks on his way to winning his first Tour with just under two weeks to go.

When Stage 10 began, many race pundits — and Nibali himself — expected Contador to try to erase his 2 1/2 minute deficit to the Italian by attacking on the ride to the finish atop La Planche des Belles Filles ski resort. As FDJ.FR team manager Marc Madiot put it: "This is the day for Contador to put Nibali into trouble."

Instead, it was Contador having the problems.

The 31-year-old Spaniard took a hard tumble in a high-speed downhill run in the Vosges mountains. After riding about 18 kilometers (12 miles) in pain, the Tinkoff-Saxo Bank team leader finally gave up. He put his foot down, got off his bike, wiped his eyes and got into a team car. An X-ray later showed a shin fracture.

Nibali said he had been ready for a "duel".

"I already had a good lead and I was ready to fight in a big duel with Alberto," he said. "Crashes are part of the sport. I've crashed myself many times in the past too. It's a pity that the Tour has lost two major protagonists."

The Astana team leader regained the lead from France's Tony Gallopin — who had taken the yellow jersey off him a day earlier — in the 161.5-kilometer (100-mile) trek from eastern Mulhouse to the steep finish at La Planche des Belles Filles.

With a final burst of speed in the last two kilometers (1.2 miles), Nibali overtook breakaway rider Joaquim Rodriguez. By the end, Nibali crossed 15 seconds ahead of France's Thibaut Pinot in second and Spain's Alejandro Valverde in third, a further five seconds behind. The Italian recovers the yellow jersey that he wore for seven days after he won the second stage in the hills of northern England. Overall, he leads Richie Porte of Australia by 2 minutes, 23 seconds, and Valverde, who is third, 2:47 back. "My legs felt good. I knew the last three kilometers were the toughest, and that's when I accelerated," said Nibali, sucking his thumb in a tribute to



Spain's Alberto Contador puts on a new shoe after crashing prior to abandoning race during the tenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 161.5 kilometers (100.4 miles) with start in Mulhouse and finish in La Planche des Belles Filles, France, Monday, July 14, 2014.

Associated Press

his young daughter as he finished. "I thought Rodriguez would follow but he seemed to have trouble." A string of crash injuries has meant that the Tour will have a first-time winner this year. Andy Schleck, the 2010 Tour winner, dropped out before Stage 4 following a crash injury a day earlier, though the Luxembourg rider said before the race that he wasn't in good enough shape to contend this year.

According to his spokesman, Contador said he wasn't exactly sure what caused the crash — which happened while he was speeding downhill at over 70 kph (about 40 mph) about halfway through the stage. Contador began the stage in ninth place overall — 4 minutes, 8 seconds back of Gallopin.

"He explained to me just a few minutes ago that he (hit) a stone or a hole in the road or something — and he crashed," Contador spokesman Jacinto Vidarte told The Associated Press by phone during the

stage. "He couldn't do anything about it."

TV images showed thick streams of blood pouring from Contador's right knee after the crash, his hip was scraped up, and the back of his jersey torn. Team director Bjarne Riis rushed over and bandaged the knee. Philippe Mauduit, a team sporting director, said initial X-rays showed that a Contador had a fractured shin.

Contador then sat back down on the grass bank and changed his left shoe as riders weaved through the narrow gap between him and his bicycle. After several minutes, he got back in the saddle of a new bike, and three teammates who had dropped back escorted him to try to make up lost time as the peloton pulled away up the Col du Platzerwasel mountain pass.

The Spaniard rode for about another half-hour, clearly in pain, and finally stopped, got off, wiped his eyes and climbed into a team car.

Nibali said he was riding next to Contador, and almost went down himself.

"I feared that the Tour might be over for me too," the Italian said. "There were a lot of risks today, and I'm really sorry for Alberto Contador. I was right behind him and luckily I was able to avoid him. It was on a descent. The road wasn't in great condition."

"I don't know what happened, but it was just incredible," said Nibali. "He fell right in front of me and was rolling on the floor. We must have been going about 60 kilometers per hour." There were crashes elsewhere.

Italian rider Michele Scarponi — Nibali's Astana teammate — sustained a heavy crash coming down from the penultimate climb up to Col des Chevreres. He misjudged a turn and thudded into a protective crash barrier, flipping over his bike and colliding with a spectator, who was unhurt. Scarponi was able to continue riding. □





**Justin Gatlin from the USA reacts after winning the men's 100m race at the Athletissima IAAF Diamond League athletics meeting in the Stade Olympique de la Pontaise in Lausanne, Switzerland, Thursday, July 3, 2014.**  
**Associated Press**

**LINZ, Austria (AP)** — Justin Gatlin stretched his season's unbeaten streak in the 100 meters to 10 races by trashing the 20-year-old best mark of the Gugl

Games on Monday. The 2012 Olympic bronze medalist finished in 9.82 seconds, scraping 0.12 off the meeting record set by Davidson Ezinwa of Nigeria

in 1994. Gatlin's run was the fastest ever in Austria though he came 0.02 short of his own best mark for the season after clocking 9.80 at the

## Gatlin extends unbeaten streak in 100 meters

Diamond League meeting in Lausanne. The American's personal best is 9.79. Gatlin finished runner-up to Usain Bolt at the world championships last year but the Jamaican stand-out hasn't competed yet this season. Gatlin's next appearance is at the Diamond League in Monaco on Friday. Second-placed Mike Rodgers timed 9.92 while Ryan Bailey took third in 10.12 for an American sweep of the podium. Nesta Carter, part of Jamaica's golden 4x100 relay team at the London Games, trailed by another 0.01 in fourth. In the women's 100, Carina Horn of South Africa and Carrie Russell of Jamaica shared victory in 11.21 but

failed to threaten Marion Jones' 16-year-old meeting record of 10.84. Shalonda Solomon of United States trailed by 0.04 in third. Mikel Thomas of Trinidad and Tobago took the 110 hurdles in 13.42 while indoor world champion Nia Ali of the United States won the women's race over 100 meters in 12.82. Anthony Chemut of Kenya was the fastest over the unusual 1,000-meter distance, finishing in 2 minutes, 18.20 seconds. Olympic bronze medalist Will Claye won the long jump with an 8.19-meter effort, beating Mike Hartfield by 0.04. Tyron Stewart jumped 7.76 for another American 1-2-3 sweep. □

## First black woman to win Olympic gold dies

**ALBANY, Georgia (AP)** — The first black woman to win an Olympic gold medal, Alice Coachman Davis, died early Monday in south Georgia. She was 90. Davis' death was confirmed by her daughter, Evelyn Jones. Davis won Olympic gold in the high jump at the 1948 games in London with an American and Olympic record of 1.68 meters, according to USA Track and Field, the American governing body of the sport. Davis was inducted to the USA Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1975, and was inducted to the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame in 2004. "Going into the USOC Hall of Fame is as good as it gets," she told The Associated Press in a 2004 interview. "It's like Cooperstown, Springfield and Canton," she said, referring to the sites of other prominent Halls of Fame. Davis was the only American woman to win a gold medal at the 1948 games. According to Olympic historian David Wallechinsky, Coachman was honored with a 280-kilometer mo-

torcade in Georgia when she returned from London. However, the black and white audiences were segregated at her official ceremony in Albany. Recollecting her career in the 2004 interview, Davis speculated that she could have won even more Olympic medals, but the Olympics weren't held in 1940 or 1944 because of World War II. She retired at age 25 after winning the gold medal in London. "I know I would have won in 1944, at least," said Davis. "I was starting to peak then. It really feels good when Old Glory is raised and the National Anthem is played." Davis attended Tuskegee University and also played basketball on a team that won three straight conference basketball titles. She won 25 national track and field championships — including 10 consecutive high jump titles — between 1939 and 1948, according to USA Track and Field. Growing up in the deep South during the era of legal segregation, Davis had to overcome multiple chal-



**This April 18, 2012, file photo shows Olympic swimming great John Nabor, left, interviewing Alice Coachman Davis, a gold medalist in the high jump at the 1948 Olympics, during U.S. Olympic team festivities in New York's Times Square.**  
**Associated Press**

lenges. The New Georgia Encyclopedia says she was prohibited from using public sports facilities because of her race, so she used whatever equipment she could cobble together to practice her jumping. "My dad did not want me to travel to Tuskegee and then up north to the Nationals," Davis told the AP. "He felt it was too danger-

ous. Life was very different for African-Americans at that time. But I came back and showed him my medal and talked about all the things I saw. He and my mom were very proud of me." Davis won her first national high jump title at age 16 according to USA Track and Field, and worked as a school teacher and track coach after retiring. An elementary school in her

home town is named in her honor and opened in August 1999 according to Dougherty County schools officials. Vera Williams, a secretary at Meadows Funeral Home in Albany, said Meadows will be handling Davis' memorial service, but plans haven't been finalized yet. Davis' cause of death was not immediately disclosed. □



# iPad, other devices might cause rash

**LINDSEY TANNER**  
**AP Medical Writer**

**CHICAGO (AP)** -- Unexplained rash? Check your iPad. It turns out the popular tablet computer may contain nickel, one of the most common allergy-inducing metals.

Recent reports in medical journals detail nickel allergies from a variety of personal electronic devices, including laptops and cell-phones. But it was an Apple iPad that caused an itchy body rash in an 11-year-old boy recently treated at a San Diego hospital, according to a report in Monday's Pediatrics.

Nickel rashes aren't life-threatening, but they can be very uncomfortable, and they may require treatment with steroids and antibiotics if the skin eruptions become infected, said Dr. Sharon Jacob, a dermatologist at Rady Children's Hospital, where the boy was treated. Jacob, who co-wrote the report, said the young patient had to miss school because of the rash.

The boy discussed in the Pediatrics report had a common skin condition that causes scaly patches, but he developed a different rash all over his body that didn't respond to usual treatment. Skin testing showed he had a nickel al-

lergy, and doctors traced it to an iPad his family had bought in 2010.

Doctors tested the device and detected a chemical found in nickel in the iPad's outside coating.

"He used the iPad daily," Jacob said.

He got better after putting it in a protective case, she said.

Whether all iPad models and other Apple devices contain nickel is uncertain. Apple spokesman Chris Gaither said the company's "products are made from the highest quality materials and meet the same strict standards set for jewelry by both the U.S. Consumer Safety Product Commission and their counterparts in Europe."

"We have found that allergies like the one reported in this case are extremely rare," he said in an emailed statement.

Microsoft spokeswoman Ryan Bartholomew declined to comment on whether that company's devices contain nickel.

Amy Storey, a spokeswoman for CTIA-The Wireless Association trade group, said nickel isn't widely used in the industry's products' outer coatings because it can block radiofrequency signals from reaching the devices. She said she didn't know which makers use it.



In this, Friday, April 20, 2012, file photo, a visitor tries out an iPad at an Apple store in Klang, outside Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Associated Press

People with existing nickel allergies are at risk for rashes from nickel-containing devices. According to an advisory about cellphones on the website of the Nickel Institute, a global association based in Toronto representing nickel producers, the risk arises from contact with nickel-plated outer surfaces "over prolonged periods of time."

"The length of time required to elicit an allergic reaction will vary from 5 or 10 minutes to never, de-

pending on the sensitivity of the individual," the advisory says.

Nickel rashes also have been traced to other common products including some jewelry, eyeglass frames and zippers.

Jacob said evidence suggests nickel allergies are becoming more common, or increasingly recognized. She cited national data showing that about 25 percent of children who get skin tests for allergies have nickel allergies, ver-

sus about 17 percent a decade ago.

Clare Richardson, spokeswoman for the Nickel Institute, said research shows as many as 17 percent of women and 3 percent of men in the general population have nickel allergies. She noted that the European Union has legislation aimed at limiting the amount of nickel that can be released from products that come in direct and prolonged contact with skin. □

## Samsung suspends China supplier over child labor

**YOUKYUNG LEE**  
**AP Technology Writer**

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)** — Samsung Electronics Co. said it has suspended business ties with a Chinese supplier that allegedly hired children.

The South Korean company, which is the world's biggest smartphone maker, said in its blog Monday that it had found possible evidence of child labor and illegal hiring at Dongguan Shinyang Electronics Co.

Samsung said last week it would urgently look into the Chinese supplier fol-

lowing a New York-based watchdog's report that it hired at least five children under the age of 16.

China Labor Watch said children as well as minors under 18 worked at Shinyang for three to six months to meet production targets during a period of high demand.

The watchdog said the child workers were paid for 10 hours a day but worked 11 hours.

The report detailed 15 labor violations discovered during its undercover investigation. They included

child labor, the absence of safety training, no overtime wages and no social insurance for temporary workers, who constituted at least 40 percent of 1,200 employees at the Chinese cellphone parts supplier for Samsung.

China Labor Watch's report came shortly after Samsung said its audit found no child labor at hundreds of Chinese suppliers. Samsung began inspecting its Chinese suppliers after the labor watchdog raised the child labor issue in 2012.

Samsung said Chinese au-



Visitors try out Samsung Electronics Co.'s Galaxy 5 at the company's showroom in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, July 8, 2014.

Associated Press

thorities are investigating the case and if the investigation finds child labor,

Samsung will permanently stop doing business with Shinyang. □



## Stocks move higher on earnings, acquisition news

**ALEX VEIGA**  
**AP Business Writer**

Stocks shook off last week's doldrums and finished sharply higher Monday,

settle a federal probe into its mortgage securities business. JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Goldman Sachs, due to report earnings

On Monday, investors appeared to be reassured any problems would be contained. "Investors are saying if this

0.5 percent, to 1,977.10. The index is down 0.4 percent from its most recent all-time high of 1,985.44 set July 3.

Nine of the 10 sectors in the S&P 500 rose, led by energy stocks. Utilities fell the most. The Dow Jones industrial average added 111.61 points, or 0.7 percent, to 17,055.42. The Dow is down slightly from its July 3 record of 17,068.65.

The Nasdaq composite gained 24.93 points, or 0.6 percent, to 4,440.42.

The three stock indexes are all up for the year.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.54 percent from 2.52 percent late Friday.

With the market trading near all-time highs, investors will be focused this week on a large number of corporate earnings, including quarterly reports from General Electric, Google, Bank of America and Johnson & Johnson.

So far investors like what they see.

"We got started off with a very good report out of Citibank this morning," Orlando said. "And economic news this week — retail sales, capacity utilization, housing data, confidence data — is all supposed to be pretty good."

Citigroup rose \$1.42, or 3 percent, to \$48.42.

Several other big investment banks also rose. □

## Lindt & Sprüngli will buy Russell Stover Candies

**CHAD BRAY**  
**© 2014 New York Times**

**LONDON** - The Swiss chocolate maker Chocolade-fabriken Lindt & Sprüngli said Monday that it had reached an agreement to acquire Russell Stover Candies, the U.S. maker of boxed chocolates.

The deal to acquire Russell Stover, which is based in Kansas City, Missouri, will make Lindt the third-largest chocolate manufacturer in North America. Lindt already owns the Ghirardelli Chocolate Co., whose former factory is a tourist attraction in San Francisco.

"This biggest and most important strategic acquisition to date in Lindt & Sprüngli's history is a unique opportunity for us to expand our North American chocolate business and will greatly enhance the group's status in the world's biggest overall chocolate marketplace," said Ernst Tanner, the Lindt chairman. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Russell Stover was founded in 1923 in Denver by Russell and Clara Stover, who originally marketed their product under the name Mrs. Stover's Bungalow Candies. The Stover family sold the business in 1960 to Louis L. Ward, who expanded the Russell Stover brand across the United States.

The company's gift boxes were made famous in the film "Forrest Gump," in which the title character, played by Tom Hanks, says as he eats the chocolates at a bus stop: "My mama always said, life was like a box of chocolates: You never know what you're gonna get." Ward died in 1996, but his family continued to run the business. His family hired Goldman Sachs this year to sell the company. Russell Stover, which acquired the Whitman's brand of boxed chocolates in 1993, has annual revenue of about \$500 million, according to Lindt. Russell Stover operates four chocolate factories in the United States, employs about 2,700 people and has 35 retail outlets. □



**Trader John Panin, left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks shook off last week's doldrums and finished sharply higher Monday, driven by a round of corporate deal news and strong earnings from Citigroup.**

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

driven by a round of corporate deal news and strong earnings from Citigroup. Investors cheered AECOM Technology's \$4 billion acquisition of engineering and construction services company URS Corp., sending URS' stock up 11.6 percent and AECOM 8.6 percent.

Citigroup rose 3 percent after the bank turned in better-than-expected results and disclosed it has agreed to pay \$7 billion to

Tuesday, also got a lift.

All told, the three major stock indexes notched their second gain in two days. That's a turnaround from last week, when the Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 0.9 percent, its worst showing since April.

Concern about Portugal's Espirito Santo International, which reportedly missed a debt payment last week, harked back to issues that spawned Europe's debt crisis.

Portugal thing really isn't significant from an impact standpoint, and the earnings are coming in good ... stocks ought to be going higher," said Phil Orlando, chief equity strategist at Federated Investments.

The major indexes rose in premarket trading as investors digested Citigroup's earnings. They opened in the green and held steady through the entire session.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 9.53 points, or

## LinkedIn acquires startup Newsle in surprise move

**SYDNEY EMBER**  
**© 2014 New York Times**

Unlike some other Silicon Valley companies like Facebook and Google, LinkedIn has been relatively quiet on the deal making front. And when it does do a deal, it is usually small.

On Monday, the business-oriented service announced that it had acquired Newsle, a startup that combs the Internet for new articles and blogs that mention a user's friend, professional contact or public figure. The move is LinkedIn's latest attempt to establish itself as more than just a digital résumé service. The terms of the deal

were not disclosed.

"The combination of Newsle and LinkedIn is good news for professionals everywhere because it means even more relevant insights about the people they care about," Ryan Roslansky, the head of content products at LinkedIn, said in a statement.

For LinkedIn, too, Newsle's appeal is its technology. In a post on its blog, LinkedIn emphasized Newsle's algorithms, which allow the company to provide relevant content quickly to its users. "We're excited to work with Newsle's team to combine this technology with our core assets

and build experiences that continue to make you and millions of other professionals more productive and successful," LinkedIn said in a blog post announcing the deal. Newsle, founded in 2011, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Still, LinkedIn has yet to make the kind of head-spinning deals that some have come to expect out of Silicon Valley. Instead, LinkedIn said it has approached deal making methodically, preferring smaller transactions that expand its existing talent, products or technology. For example, it recently ac-

quired Bright, a data-driven job search startup, for \$120 million. Last year, LinkedIn purchased Pulse, a news reading startup, in a deal valued at about \$90 million. LinkedIn declined to comment on its future deal making plans.

Newsle wrote on its own blog that its team of engineers, along with its two founders, Axel Hansen and Jonah Varon, would join LinkedIn. The company also said it would act as a standalone business as it works with LinkedIn to incorporate its core services. Beyond that, it is not clear whether LinkedIn will eventually shut Newsle. □



# AbbVie, Shire enter detailed talks on combination

**TOM MURPHY**  
**AP Business Writer**

Drugmakers AbbVie and Shire have entered detailed talks about a possible combination after AbbVie raised its bid once again and offered to give Shire shareholders a bigger stake in the resulting company.

Shire said Monday that North Chicago, Illinois-based AbbVie is now offering a cash-stock combination valued at 53.20 British pounds (\$91.10) for each share of Shire, which is headquartered on the British island of Jersey. The new offer totals roughly \$53.68 billion and repre-

sents an increase from AbbVie's previous proposal, which amounted to more than \$51 billion. Shire PLC shareholders also would own about 25 percent of the combined new company, up from the 24 percent stake proposed in the most recent offer. Shire had rejected several

unsolicited bids from AbbVie Inc. before it asked for another revised proposal earlier this month. Shire said its board would be willing to recommend the latest bid to its shareholders if the companies resolved some other terms in the offer, which it did not detail. The drugmaker said

its board has entered "detailed discussions" with AbbVie over those terms. Shire makes the attention deficit hyperactivity disorder medication Vyvanse as well as rare disease and gastrointestinal treatments. AbbVie was spun off from Abbott Laboratories at the start of last year. □

# Citigroup to pay \$7B in subprime mortgages probe

**ERIC TUCKER**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Citigroup agreed Monday to pay \$7 billion to settle a federal investigation into its handling of risky subprime mortgages, admitting to a pattern of deception that Attorney General Eric Holder said "shattered lives" and contributed to the worst financial crisis in decades. The settlement represents a moment of reckoning for one of the country's biggest and most significant banks, which will now be responsible for providing financial support to Americans whose lives were dismantled by the largest economic meltdown since the Great Depression. Besides a \$4 billion civil penalty, the bank will also pay \$2.5 billion in consumer relief to help borrowers who lost their homes to foreclosure and settle claims from state attorneys general and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The settlement does not preclude the possibility of criminal prosecutions for the bank or individ-

ual employees in the future, the Justice Department said. The \$7 billion settlement, which represents about half of Citigroup's \$13.7 billion profit last year, is the latest substantial penalty sought for a bank or mortgage company at the epicenter of the housing crisis. The Justice Department, criticized for not being aggressive enough in targeting financial misconduct, has in the last year reached a \$13 billion deal with JPMorgan Chase & Co., the nation's largest bank, and also sued Bank of America Corp. for misleading investors in its sale of mortgage-linked securities. Yet the settlement packages pale in size compared to the broader damages caused by the Great Recession. The unemployment rate spiked to 10 percent as millions lost their jobs and their homes, causing losses that totaled in the trillions of dollars. And consumers groups criticized the settlement as a sweetheart deal

for a major bank. "In the context of the damage done, the damage even described by the attorney general, we're not even in the same ballpark,"



**A Citi Bank sign is seen in Chicago. Citigroup will pay \$7 billion to settle an investigation into risky subprime mortgages, the type that helped fuel the financial crisis. The agreement announced Monday, July 14, 2014, comes weeks after talks between the sides broke down, prompting the government to warn that it would sue the New York investment bank. The settlement stems from the sale of securities made up of subprime mortgages, which fueled both the housing boom and bust that triggered the Great Recession at the end of 2007.**

(AP Photo/Kiichiro Sato)

said Bartlett Naylor, financial policy advocate for Public Citizen, which represents consumer interests. The settlement stems from the sale of toxic securities

made up of subprime mortgages, which led to both the housing boom and bust that triggered the Great Recession at the end of 2007. Banks, including Citigroup,

tors. The securities, which contained so-called residential mortgage-backed securities, plunged in value when the housing market collapsed in 2006 and 2007 and investors suffered billions of dollars in losses. Those losses triggered a financial crisis that pushed the economy into the worst recession since the 1930s. One Citigroup trader wrote in an internal email that he "would not be surprised if half of these loans went down" and said it was "amazing that some of these loans were closed at all," and the bank itself increased its profits and share of the market, the Justice Department said. "They did so at the expense of millions of ordinary Americans and investors of all types — including other financial institutions, universities and pension funds, cities and towns, and even hospitals and religious charities," Holder said at a news conference announcing the settlement. □

# Mylan to buy Abbott business line in \$5.3B deal

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — The generic drugmaker Mylan is buying Abbott Laboratories' generic-drugs business in developed markets for stock valued at about \$5.3 billion. Mylan said Monday that the deal will diversify and expand its business outside the U.S. The combined company will be organized in the Netherlands, which will help reduce its tax expenses. The company will keep its headquarters near Pittsburgh. The deal is expected to lower Mylan's tax rate to approximately 20 percent

to 21 percent in the first full year, and to the high teens after that. Several other U.S. companies are using mergers to reincorporate in countries with lower tax rates. These moves are raising concerns among U.S. lawmakers because they can cost the federal government billions in tax revenue. The business to be acquired by Mylan encompasses more than 100 generic and specialty drugs sold in Europe, Japan, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Some of the products include

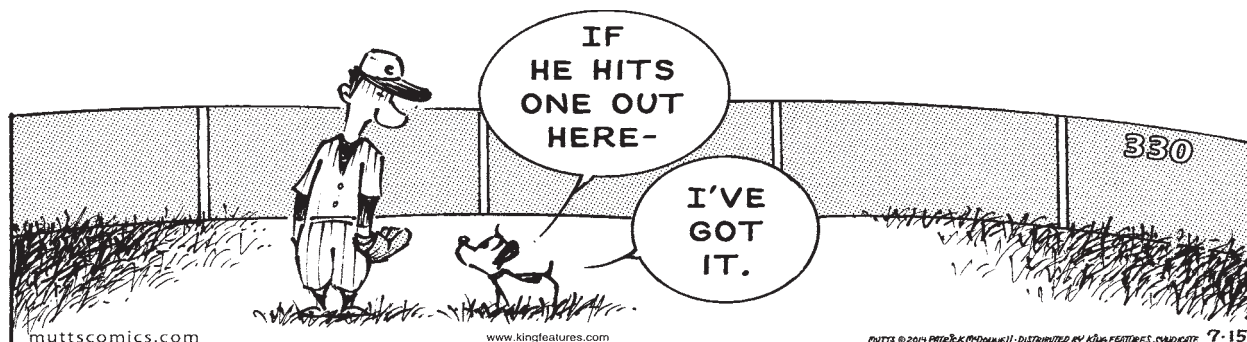
Creon, Influvac, Brufen, Amitiza and Androgel. It also include manufacturing plants in France and Japan. The portfolio of products accounted for about \$2 billion in sales last year. Abbott is keeping its branded generic drug business in emerging markets. That business had 2013 sales of \$2.9 billion. It is also keeping its other businesses and products in developed markets. Abbott will own about 21 percent of the combined Mylan company — which will be called Mylan NV

— but does not intend to remain a long-term shareholder. Shares of Mylan NV will trade on the Nasdaq under Mylan's existing ticker symbol, "MYL." The transaction is expected to about double Mylan's revenue in Europe by strengthening its presence in countries such as Italy, the U.K., Germany, France, Spain and Portugal. It also is expected to more than double Mylan's revenue in Canada and Japan, and strengthen its business in Australia and New Zealand. The deal also gives Mylan a mean-

ingful presence in the specialty and branded generics market in Central and Eastern Europe. The deal is expected to close in early 2015. It is expected to immediately add to Mylan's earnings, to the tune of about 25 cents per share in adjusted earnings in the first year, increasing through 2018. Mylan Inc. is based in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. Mylan's stock added \$2.10, or 4.2 percent, to \$52.30 in premarket trading, while shares of Abbott gained 94 cents, or 2.3 percent, to \$42.24. □



**Mutts**



**6 Chix**



**Blondie**



**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

	8	5	3				9	
	6				4			
7			2			6		
3		6					8	
			7	4	9			
	1					5		4
		1			5			9
			1			7		
	2				8	4	6	

Difficulty Level ★★

7/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	1	8	9	5	6	7	3	2
3	5	7	1	2	8	6	4	9
6	2	9	4	7	3	1	8	5
1	8	3	7	6	5	9	2	4
2	9	6	3	1	4	5	7	8
7	4	5	2	8	9	3	1	6
5	3	2	8	9	1	4	6	7
9	7	4	6	3	2	8	5	1
8	6	1	5	4	7	2	9	3

**ACROSS**

- Not quite closed
- Mountains of South America
- \_\_\_ drink; soda pop
- Record
- \_\_\_ with; handled, as a situation
- Scorch
- Singles
- Proprietor
- \_\_\_ and seek
- Bothers
- "Beat it!"
- Tavern drink
- Neighbor of India
- Mass of bees
- Play on words
- Understood, though not said
- Is unable to
- Feathery scarf
- Peaceful
- Peculiar
- Artist
- Family man
- Actor José \_\_\_
- Signal to an actor
- Come to shore
- Liberated
- Nickname for Margaret
- Drew or Mariah
- Walks the floor
- Blood analysis site
- King Arthur's castle
- Oz visitor
- Come \_\_\_; find
- Home of logs
- TV's Perlman
- Alternative to suspenders
- Popeye's love
- Deserve; merit
- Chopping tools
- Actor Ed \_\_\_
- Slipped \_\_\_; back problem
- DOWN
- Sitting upon
- Refuse to let in
- Observe
- Ride a bike
- Pull hard
- Is remorseful
- Toiled
- Zinc and silver
- Automobile
- Soothing drink
- Solitary person
- Castro's land
- Highest point
- Internal spy
- Forward lunge
- Bangkok native
- His and \_\_\_
- Sudden pull
- Flour container

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21			22		23			
24				25								
26	27	28		29			30		31	32	33	
34				35			36					
37				38			39			40		
41		42				43			44			
45				46					47			
48				49			50					
51	52	53				54			55	56	57	
58				59		60			61			
62				63					64			
65				66					67			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/15/14

**Monday's Puzzle Solved**

TIES	STYLE	ACME
ONCE	AHEAD	CRAIG
STOW	HEADSTRONG	
SON	HATS	ROPES
OPERA	GAS	
CAMERA	HOISTS	
ALICE	SHOAL	UMP
RICK	SPIEL	TRIO
SKA	MOATS	RUBLE
ELDERS	MINUET	
ATE	TOTAL	
LARVA	JADE	EBB
EXHILARATE	KNEE	
SLED	GENES	ICED
SEAS	EVERT	MESS

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7/15/14



## Goldman World Cup Streak Weighs on Brazil

VINOD SREEHARSHA

© 2014 New York Times

**RIO DE JANEIRO** - Soccer fans in Brazil might be forgiven if they asked Goldman Sachs to back another team. Despite predicting a victory for Brazil for the third consecutive World Cup, Goldman was off the mark again. In a pretournament analysis, the bank forecast that the host nation would defeat Argentina in the final 3-1. But on Sunday, Germany clinched its fourth title, beating Argentina 1-0 at Maracanã stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

Meanwhile, Brazil's team, facing enormous expectations and pressure, and after losing the star player Neymar, collapsed spectacularly in a 7-1 loss to Germany in the semifinals. It then lost on Saturday 3-0 to the Netherlands in the third-place match, thus finishing fourth.

Goldman had picked Brazil to beat Germany 2-1 in the semifinals and also defeat the Netherlands 3-1 in the Round of 16.

Notable was how heavy a favorite the bank made the host nation. It gave Brazil a 48.5 percent probability of winning the title, a figure that it noted was almost twice the 25 percent probability that Ladbrokes bookmakers had.

It wrote in its report that "the most striking aspect of our model is how heavily it favors Brazil to win the World Cup." No other team came anywhere close. Argentina was second, with a 14.1 percent probability, and Germany third with a 11.4 percent probability.

Goldman trumpeted in its report that "we have invested much more intensively this year in a model of the probability of success in a match between any two given teams, based on their track record and characteristics."

Goldman was hardly alone in its prognostication,

though. Itaú Unibanco of Brazil and UBS also concurred.

"Our statistics show that Brazil will win," Ilan Goldfajn, the bank's chief economist, said in a May 30 interview. The São Paulo-based bank, a chief sponsor of the World Cup, had Brazil beating Argentina in the final. UBS pegged Brazil's chances of winning at 30 percent, with Argentina in second with 12 percent, Spain in third with 9 percent and Germany in fourth with 8 percent.

It is Goldman, though, that seems to have the Brazilian kiss of death.

It picked Brazil to win the last World Cup, in 2010 in South Africa. Spain, however, emerged as the champion. Brazil lost to the Netherlands in the quarterfinals. It did the same thing in 2006 in Germany. Italy won. Brazil went home after losing in

the quarterfinals.

Brazil's last World Cup title, its record fifth, dates to 2002, when the tournament was played in South Korea and Japan. At that time, while Goldman did not pick an outright winner, Brazil was not among its semifinalists, which were Argentina, France, Italy and Spain. Argentina and France did not advance out of group play. Italy lost in the Round of 16, and Spain went home after the quarterfinals.

UBS also doubled down on Brazil, picking it in 2010.

Andreas Hoefert, the bank's chief economist and regional chief information officer for Europe, showed a sense of humor about that and having to come to grips with the fact that Paul, a 2-year-old octopus from SeaWorld in Oberhausen, Germany, correctly picked Spain to win in South Africa. □

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Freewinds



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### Foundation Amor

### pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 / 586-6976

### Women in Difficulties

### Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

### Bloodbank Aruba

Tel: 587-0002



# Underground lab tackles Japan nuclear waste issue

**MARI YAMAGUCHI**

**Associated Press**

**HORONobe, Japan (AP)** —

Reindeer farms and grazing Holstein cows dot a vast stretch of rolling green pasture here on Japan's northern tip. Underground it's a different story.

Workers and scientists have carved a sprawling laboratory deep below this sleepy dairy town that, despite government reassurances, some of Horonobe's 2,500 residents fear could turn their neighborhood into a nuclear waste storage site. "I'm worried," said 54-year-old reindeer handler Atsushi Arase. "If the government already has its eye on us as a potential site, it may eventually come here even if we refuse."

Japanese utilities have more than 17,000 tons of "spent" fuel rods that have finished their useful life but will remain dangerously radioactive for thousands of years. What to do with them is a vexing problem that nuclear-powered nations around the world face, and that has come to the fore as Japan debates whether to keep using nuclear energy after the 2011 disaster at Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s Fukushima plant.

The answer to that problem may lie in the Horonobe Underground Research Center, which has been collecting geological data to determine if and how radioactive waste can be stored safely for as long as 100,000 years in a country that is susceptible to volcanic activity, earthquakes and shifting underground water flows.

Several journalists donned hard hats recently and crammed in small groups



In this photo taken Thursday, June 19, 2014, journalists walk through a tunnel in Horonobe Underground Research Center in Horonobe, Japan.

**Associated Press**

into a cage-like mesh elevator for a 350-meter (1,150-foot) descent to reach the laboratory.

They emerged in a 760-meter-long (2,500-foot-long) tunnel cut in the shape of a figure 8, its bare wall showing 3 million-year-old sedimentary layers. In return for hosting the research, which under an agreement with the Japan Atomic Energy Agency doesn't involve any radioactivity, Horonobe has received about 1 billion yen (\$10 million) in government subsidies and tunnel-related public works projects since 2000, according to town statistics. Officially, this is only a test. But as with America's doomed Yucca Mountain project, finding a community willing to host a radioactive dump site is proving difficult, even with a raft of financial enticements. One mayor expressed interest in 2007, and was booted from office in the next election. Kazuhiko Shimizu, the un-



In this photo taken Thursday, June 19, 2014, a reindeer pasture sits beside the Horonobe Underground Research Center in Horonobe, Japan.

**Associated Press**

derground lab's director general, noted that Horonobe is distant from potential risks, and data samples have so far indicated it might work as a storage site. Exploring an alternative location would take another 20 years, he added.

"It's a project that takes a lot of time and effort just to get started," he said. "It's not easy."

That kind of thinking makes locals fear they have made a deal with the devil.

"There is no guarantee this test site won't turn into a final repository," said 60-year-old dairy farmer Satoshi Sumi. A move by France to convert its test site into a final depository makes him nervous. "I've been skeptical about the agreement and I still am."

The issue is political, not sci-

entific, said Osamu Tochiyama, director of the government-funded Radioactive Waste Disposal Safety Research Center in Tokyo. Under the current plan, Japan would reprocess the spent fuel so most of it could be reused. The remaining waste would be fused with melted glass into cylinders, and placed in 19-centimeter- (7.5-inch-) thick stainless steel canisters designed to last for 1,000 years — the time it takes for most of the radioactivity to largely decline.

The canisters would be put in cold storage at the Rokkasho reprocessing plant for up to 50 years. Then they would be transported and entombed in a 70-centimeter- (2.3-foot-) thick shield made of bentonite clay before being lowered into deep under-

ground storage in stable bedrock.

The government envisions building a sprawling underground repository about twice the area of Tokyo's Disneyland at a cost of 3.5 trillion yen (\$35 billion) and filling it with waste by 2100. "Nobody wants to have waste in the neighborhood. But we should all face the reality and think what to do with the waste that already exists, whether you support nuclear energy or not," Tochiyama said. "It's wrong to keep putting off a decision and imposing it on the younger generations."

But more than a decade after Japan founded the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NUMO) in 2000 to find a site, it is still looking.

The government plans to compile a list of potential sites over the next several months and start negotiations with communities. Officials are tight-lipped about where, because of the strong opposition anticipated.

Globally, only Finland and Sweden have finalized sites for underground waste storage. They are scheduled to open around 2020 and 2029, respectively. France is seeking approval to turn its current test site Bure into a full-fledged repository that would open in 2025.

In the U.S., after abandoning the proposed site at Nevada's Yucca Mountain, the government is looking at extending the use of interim "dry cask" storage to buy time until a final repository can be found.

The government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is pushing to restart some of Japan's 50 nuclear reactors, which are offline following meltdowns at the tsunami-swamped Fukushima Dai-ichi plant in 2011, and would start producing more waste if switched back on. Popular former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, previously a supporter of nuclear power, drew attention to the issue last year after visiting Finland's Onkalo site and coming out against restarts because of Japan's inability to find a site.



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## U.S. film festival honors Glenn Close



In this June 3, 2013 photo, actress Glenn Close does a television interview in the White House briefing room in Washington, Monday, June 3, 2013, ahead of the White House mental health conference with President Barack Obama.

Associated Press

**WATERVILLE, Maine (AP)**—Six-time Oscar nominated actress Glenn Close has been honored by the Maine International Film Festival.

Close called the Mid-Life Achievement Award - a moose statuette - she received Sunday night in Waterville "the best award I've ever received."

The ceremony followed a showing of "Albert Nobbs," a 2011 film Close starred in and co-produced about a

woman in 19th-century Ireland who dresses as a man in order to be able to work. The Morning Sentinel reports that the 67-year-old Close, who has a home in Maine, also spent about an hour with film enthusiasts answering questions about her career.

The 17th annual film festival runs until July 20.

Previous winners of the award include Malcolm McDowell, John Turturro and Sissy Spacek. □

## Vieira looks to connect with viewers on new show

**FRAZIER MOORE**

**AP Television Writer**

**BEVERLY HILLS, California**

**(AP)** — Meredith Vieira is looking to connect.

"Authenticity," she said, "is the key word" for what she hopes to bring to her new daytime talk show, "The Meredith Vieira Show," which premieres in syndication in the U.S. Sept. 8.

Speaking of the daytime audience, she said, "They want real, and they want to connect with somebody. They feel a connective tissue (with daytime personalities) that I don't think you find other times of the day." Speaking to reporters on Monday at the summer TV critics' gathering, Vieira said she'll tape at NBC headquarters at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, also home to such programs as "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," "Late Night with Seth Meyers" and "Saturday Night Live." She



**Meredith Vieira attends the NBC 2014 Summer TCA held at the Beverly Hotel on Sunday, July 13, 2014, in Beverly Hills, Calif.**

Associated Press

said she'd welcome drop-ins from any stars from those shows who might be roaming the halls.

The 60-year-old Vieira presides over her own daytime talk show after accumulating a varied resume including "60 Minutes," the "Today" show, "The View" and "Who Wants to be a Millionaire." □



This image released by WeTV shows actor Damon Gupton, left, and director Tony Goldwyn on the set of "The Divide." The series premieres Wednesday, July 16 at 9 p.m. ET.

Associated Press

## 'Scandal' star Tony Goldwyn creates a new drama

**FRAZIER MOORE**

**AP Television Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Tony

Goldwyn has displayed a lack of ethics in the White House.

As President Fitzgerald Grant on ABC's hit melodrama "Scandal," he has cheated on his wife right under her nose and even smothered a pesky Supreme Court justice on her sickbed. But in his behind-the-camera roles as producer, director and writer, Goldwyn is exposing the ethical minefields of the justice system in a fine new drama "The Divide."

This eight-episode series, which premieres on WE tv on Wednesday (9 p.m. EDT), teams Goldwyn with fellow creator and producer Richard LaGravenese (writer of last year's HBO film "Behind the Candelabra"), who penned the two-hour debut.

Inspired by the real-life Innocence Project (which works to exonerate wrongfully convicted people through DNA testing), "The Divide" focuses on a young Philadelphia caseworker for the Innocence Initiative named Christine Rosa, who has become obsessed with winning a last-ditch appeal for a white inmate soon facing execution for the murder of a black family.

As Christine (series star Marin Ireland) and her boss (Paul Schneider) probe inconsistencies in the case, they butt heads with the city's charismatic African-American district attorney (Damon Gupton), even as he begins to acknowledge problems with the racially charged verdict, which vaulted him to prominence a dozen years ago but, if it came apart now, could be his undoing.

"In the past," Goldwyn says, "I had assumed that if someone's in prison, they probably did it. I didn't realize how much gray area there is in our justice system, and how many cracks catch people without money and influence."

"On the show, we try to come to terms with the ambiguity of human nature," adds LaGravenese. "In the Writers Room, I said, 'Let's get rid of words like "good" and "bad." That's not what our show is about.'"

The two first worked together when LaGravenese did a script rewrite for the Goldwyn-directed 2010 film "Conviction," which starred Hilary Swank in a dramatization of an actual Innocence Project case.

When that was done, says Goldwyn, "I wanted to explore the Innocence Project further. I thought a TV

series would be a great way."

After months of hashing out ideas, then crafting a proposal for the series they conceived, they landed a deal with the corporate parent of AMC to film a pilot. Time passed. Then so did AMC on the series. But a sister network, WE tv, stepped up.

WE tv, in the midst of a network-wide rebranding, claimed "The Divide" as its first-ever scripted series — a hoped-for repeat of how, in 2007, a new drama called "Mad Men" heralded the revamping of AMC.

Goldwyn and LaGravenese went back to work to beef up the narrative in preparation for adding and reshooting scenes for the pilot.

Goldwyn had landed the original deal for "The Divide" before committing to "Scandal," but despite those "presidential" duties (which he resumes for season four later this month), he says the show was generous in giving him freedom to develop "The Divide." And when "Scandal" took a two-month hiatus in the middle of last season, Goldwyn was able to head to Toronto, where he directed the first two episodes of "The Divide" as it sprang to life again. □



# Archie to be shot saving gay friend in comic book



This photo provided by Archie Comics shows the cover of the comic book, "Life with Archie," issue 36. Associated Press

**DERRIK J. LANG**

**AP Entertainment Writer**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Archie Andrews will die taking a bullet for his gay best friend. The famous freckle-faced comic book icon is meeting his demise in Wednesday's installment of "Life with Archie" when he intervenes in an assassination attempt on Kevin Keller,

Archie Comics' first openly gay character. Andrews' death, which was first announced in April, will mark the conclusion of the series that focuses on grown-up renditions of Andrews and his Riverdale pals.

"The way in which Archie dies is everything that you would expect of Archie," said Jon Goldwater, Archie Comics publisher and co-

CEO. "He dies heroically. He dies selflessly. He dies in the manner that epitomizes not only the best of Riverdale but the best of all of us. It's what Archie has come to represent over the past almost 75 years."

Keller's character first joined Veronica Lodge, Betty Cooper, Jughead Jones and Reggie Mantle in the Archie Comics spin-off "Veronica" in 2010. He later appeared in his own solo title. In "Life with Archie," Keller is a married military veteran and newly elected senator who's pushing for more gun control in Riverdale after his husband was involved in a shooting.

"We wanted to do something that was impactful that would really resonate with the world and bring home just how important Archie is to everyone," said Goldwater. "That's how we came up with the storyline of saving Kevin. He could have saved Betty. He could have saved Veronica. We get that, but metaphorically, by saving Kevin, a new Riverdale is born."

Andrew Wheeler, who writes about the comic book industry at ComicsAlliance.com, praised the way that Andrews will be killed off. He wrote on Mon-

day that "Archie's sacrifice isn't just a moment of heroism; it offers an unambiguous condemnation of America's lax gun laws" and said that it's "not surprising to see Archie Comics tackling such a serious issue" because the publisher "doesn't shy away from risky ideas." Andrews' final moments will be detailed in "Life with Archie" No. 36, while issue No. 37 will jump forward a year and focus on the Riverdale gang honoring the legacy of their red-headed pal, who first appeared in comics in 1941 and went on to become a colorful icon of wholesomeness. Other incarnations of Andrews will continue to live on in Archie Comics series.

In recent years, deaths of high-profile comic book characters like Peter "Spider-Man" Parker and Steve "Captain America" Rogers have made headlines and garnered intense reaction from fans. Goldwater notes that Andrews' passing isn't just a publicity stunt but also a lesson about gun violence and a declaration of diversity in the new age of Archie Comics.

"Archie is not a superhero like all the rest of the comic book characters," said

Goldwater. "He's human. He's a person. When you wound him, he bleeds. He knows that. If anything, I think his death is more impactful because of that. We hope by showing how something so violent can happen to Archie, that we can — in some way — learn from him." "Life with Archie" was launched in 2010 after Archie Comics writers envisioned alternate futures where Archie married both Veronica and Betty. Over the past four years, storylines in the more socially relevant series aimed at longtime Archie fans have included Keller's marriage, the death of teacher Ms. Grundy and sometimes Archie love interest Cheryl Blossom tackling breast cancer and affordable health care.

Archie Comics has also more broadly strived to appeal to modern sensibilities by launching a spin-off series called "Afterlife with Archie" that envisions a zombie outbreak coming to Riverdale and enlisting "Girls" creator and star Lena Dunham to write a four-part Archie story set for release next year that chronicles the production of a reality TV show in Riverdale.

## Artist creates 'empowering' wearable sculptures

**ULA ILNYTZKY**

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Linda Stein wants people to armor themselves in her art. She creates full-length wearable sculptures embedded with all manner of found objects, including driftwood, engraving plates, steel wire, zippers, pebbles and comic book imagery of superheroes. Her idea grew out of her sense of vulnerability after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, with the aim of giving wearers a sense of empowerment and protection. Her targets are any form of institutionalized oppression, such as sexism, racism and homophobia.

She also designs "bullyproof vests," made from a patchwork of fabrics featuring



In this July 10, 2014 photo, artist-activist Linda Stein, left, talks to visitors wearing one of her "bullyproof" vests at her gallery and studio space in New York.

**Associated Press**

such female symbols as the Japanese anime character Princess Mononoke and the comic book hero Wonder Woman, along with words "I will ... not let cultural impediments and sexual stereotypes hold me down."

At a recent "body swapping" at her studio in Manhattan's Tribeca neighborhood, she invited a group of professional women to try on what she calls sculptural avatars, which can each weigh from 7 to 20

pounds (3 to 9 kilograms). Stein asked the wearers to imagine they are trying on another skin "to get in touch with how their bodies feel."

"It's like putting on a whole new persona," said Rinku Sen, who struck a "Rocky" pose in front of a mirror in a "Wonder Woman" torso made of acrylicized paper. Another participant, Dana Sparling, donned a heavier metal creation she said felt like a "shield between me and the world."

Stein explained that she features Wonder Woman prominently in the works because "she never killed." "She protected the weak and downtrodden wearing her bracelets and her black lasso. It's very hard to find

a female superhero that's not violent and isn't a total sex object," Stein said.

The representation of gender and sexual identity is a longstanding tradition in activist art that dates back to the feminist movement, said Muhlenberg College art history professor Margo Hobbs. She said Stein's work is particularly powerful because "it works on the viewer's body to bring about a really visceral rather than an intellectual experience."

Reminiscent of classical torsos, a group of her sculptures is making the rounds at 24 universities, galleries and museums across the U.S. in what is a seven-year traveling exhibition, "The Fluidity of Gender," that runs through 2017.



## Who Wants a Depression?



PAUL KRUGMAN  
© 2014 New York Times

One unhappy lesson we've learned in recent years is that economics is a far more political subject than we liked to imagine. Well, duh, you may say. But, before the financial crisis, many economists - even, to some extent, yours truly - believed that there was a fairly broad professional consensus on some important issues.

This was especially true of monetary policy. It's not that many years since the administration of George W. Bush declared that one lesson from the 2001 recession and the recovery that followed was that "aggressive monetary policy can make a recession shorter and milder." Surely, then, we'd have a bipartisan consensus in favor of even more aggressive monetary policy to fight the far worse slump of 2007 to 2009. Right?

Well, no. I've written a number of times about the phenomenon of "sadamonetarism," the constant demand that the Federal Reserve and other central banks stop trying to boost employment and raise interest rates instead, regardless of circumstances. I've suggested that the persistence of this phenomenon has a lot to do with ideology, which, in turn, has a lot to do with class interests. And I still think that's true.

But I now think that class interests also operate through a cruder, more direct channel. Quite simply, easy-money policies, while they may help the economy as a whole, are directly detrimental to people who get a lot of their income from bonds and other interest-paying assets - and this mainly means the very wealthy, in particular the top 0.01 percent. The story so far: For more than five years, the Fed has faced harsh criticism from a coalition of economists, pundits, politicians, and financial-industry moguls warning that it is "debasement the dollar" and setting the stage for runaway inflation. You might have thought that the continuing failure of the predicted inflation to materialize would cause at least a few second thoughts, but you'd be wrong. Some of the critics have come up with new rationales for unchanging policy demands - it's about inflation! no, it's about financial stability! - but most have simply continued to repeat the same warnings. Who are these always-wrong,

never-in-doubt critics? With no exceptions I can think of, they come from the right side of the political spectrum. But why should right-wing sentiments go hand in hand with inflation paranoia? One answer is that using monetary policy to fight slumps is a form of government activism. And conservatives don't want to legitimize the notion that government action can ever have positive effects, because once you start down that path you might end up endorsing things like government-guaranteed health insurance.

But there's also a much more direct reason for those defending the interests of the wealthy to complain about easy money: The wealthy derive an important part of their income from interest on bonds, and low-rate policies have greatly reduced this income.

Complaints about low interest rates are usually framed in terms of the harm being done to retired Americans living on the interest from their CDs. But the interest receipts of older Americans go mainly to a small and relatively affluent minority. In 2012, the average older American with interest income received more than \$3,000, but half the group received \$255 or less. The really big losers from low interest rates are the truly wealthy - not even the 1 percent, but the 0.1 percent or even the 0.01 percent. Back in 2007, before the slump, the average member of the 0.01 percent received \$3 million (in 2012 dollars) in interest. By 2011, that had fallen to \$1.3 million - a loss equivalent to almost 9 percent of the group's 2007 income.

That's a lot, and it surely explains a lot of the hysteria over Fed policy. The rich are even more likely than most people to believe that what's good for them is good for America - and their wealth and the influence it buys ensure that there are always plenty of supposed experts eager to find justifications for this attitude. Hence sadomonetarism.

Which brings me back to the politicization of economics. Before the financial crisis, many central bankers and economists were, it's now clear, living in a fantasy world, imagining themselves to be technocrats insulated from the political fray. After all, their job was to steer the economy between the shoals of inflation and depression, and who could object to that?

It turns out, however, that using monetary policy to fight depression, while in the interest of the vast majority of Americans, isn't in the interest of a small, wealthy minority. And, as a result, monetary policy is as bound up in class and ideological conflict as tax policy.

The truth is that in a society as unequal and polarized as ours has become, almost everything is political. Get used to it. □



## Religious Freedom in Peril



NICHOLAS KRISTOF  
© 2014 New York Times

A Sudanese court in May sentences a Christian woman married to an American to be hanged, after first being lashed 100 times, after she refuses to renounce her Christian faith.

Muslim extremists in Iraq demand that Christians pay a tax or face crucifixion, according to the Iraqi government.

In Malaysia, courts ban some non-Muslims from using the word "Allah."

In country after country, Islamic fundamentalists are measuring their own religious devotion by the degree to which they suppress or assault those they see as heretics, creating a human rights catastrophe as people are punished or murdered for their religious beliefs.

This is a sensitive area I'm wading into here, I realize. Islam-haters in America and the West seize upon incidents like these to denounce Islam as a malignant religion of violence, while politically correct liberals are reluctant to say anything for fear of feeding bigotry. Yet there is a real issue here of religious tolerance, affecting millions of people, and we should be able to discuss it.

I've been thinking about this partly because of the recent murder of a friend, Rashid Rehman, a courageous human

rights lawyer in Multan, Pakistan. Rashid, a Muslim, had agreed to defend a university lecturer who faced the death penalty after being falsely accused of insulting the Prophet Muhammad. This apparently made Rashid a target as well, for two men walked into his office and shot him dead.

No doubt the killers thought themselves pious Muslims. Yet such extremists do far more damage to the global reputation of Islam than all the world's Islamophobes put together.

The paradox is that Islam historically was relatively tolerant. In 628, Muhammad issued a document of protection to the monks of St. Catherine's Monastery.

"No compulsion is to be on them," he wrote. "If a female Christian is married to a Muslim, it is not to take place without her approval. She is not to be prevented from visiting her church to pray."

Anti-Semitism runs deep in some Muslim countries today, but, for most of history, Muslims were more tolerant of Jews than Christians were. As recently as the Dreyfus Affair in France more than a century ago, Muslims defended a Jew from the anti-Semitism of Christians.

Likewise, the most extreme modern case of religious persecution involved Europeans trying to exterminate Jews in the Holocaust. Since then, one of the worst religious massacres was the killing of Muslims by Christians at Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It's also true that some of the bravest champions of religious freedom today are Muslim. Mohammad Ali Dadkhah, an Iranian lawyer, represented a Christian pastor pro bono, successfully defending him from charges of apostasy. But Dadkhah was then arrested himself and is now serving a nine-year prison sentence. Saudi Arabia may feud with Iran about almost everything else, but they are twins in religious repression. Saudis ban churches; it insults Islam to suggest it is so frail it cannot withstand an occasional

church.

Particularly insidious in conservative Muslim countries is the idea that anyone born Muslim cannot become a Christian. That's what happened in the case I mentioned in Sudan: The court considered the woman, Meriam Ibrahim, a Muslim even though she had been raised a Christian by her mother. The court sentenced her to die for apostasy; that was overturned, and she is now sheltering with her family in the U.S. Embassy in Sudan, trying to get permission to leave the country.

A Pew Research Center study found Muslims victims of religious repression in about as many countries as Christians. But some of worst abuse actually takes place in Muslim-dominated countries. In Pakistan, for example, a brutal campaign has been underway against the Shiite minority. Likewise, Iran represses the peaceful Bahai, and similarly Pakistan and other countries brutally mistreat the Ahmadi, who see themselves as Muslims but are regarded as apostates. Pakistani Ahmadi can be arrested simply for saying, "peace be upon you." All this is a sad index of rising intolerance, for Pakistan's first foreign minister was an Ahmadi; now that would be impossible.

I hesitated to write this column because religious repression is an awkward topic when it thrives in Muslim countries. Muslims from Gaza to Syria, Western Sahara to Myanmar, are already enduring plenty without also being scolded for intolerance. It's also true that we in the West live in glass houses, and I don't want to empower our own chauvinists or fuel Islamophobia.

Yet religious freedom is one of the most basic of human rights, and one in peril in much of the world. Some heroic Muslims, like my friend Rashid in Pakistan, have sacrificed their lives to protect religious freedom. Let's follow their lead and speak up as well, for silence would be a perversion of politeness. □



# A Game as Literary Tutorial

**ETHAN GILSDORF**

© 2014 New York Times

When he was an immigrant boy growing up in New Jersey, writer Junot Díaz said he felt marginalized. But that feeling was dispelled somewhat in 1981 when he was in sixth grade. He and his buddies, adventuring pals with roots in distant realms - Egypt, Ireland, Cuba and the Dominican Republic - became "totally sucked in," he said, by a "completely radical concept: role-playing," in the form of Dungeons & Dragons.

Playing D&D and spinning tales of heroic quests, "we welfare kids could travel," Díaz, 45, said in an email interview, "have adventures, succeed, be powerful, triumph, fail and be in ways that would have been impossible in the larger real world."

"For nerds like us, D&D hit like an extra horizon," he added. The game functioned as "a sort of storytelling apprenticeship."

Now the much-played and much-mocked Dungeons & Dragons, the first commercially available role-playing game, has turned 40. In D&D players gather around a table, not a video screen. Together they use low-tech tools like hand-drawn maps and miniature figurines to tell stories of brave and cun-

ning protagonists such as elfish wizards and dwarfish warriors who explore dungeons and battle orcs, trolls and mind flayers. Sacks of dice and vast rule books help determine the outcome of the game's ongoing, free-form story.

For certain writers, especially those raised in the 1970s and '80s, all that time spent in basements has paid off. D&D helped jump-start their creative lives. As Díaz said, "It's been a formative narrative media for all sorts of writers."

The league of ex-gamer writers also includes the "weird fiction" author China Miéville ("The City & the City"); Brent Hartinger (author of "Geography Club," a novel about gay and bisexual teenagers); the sci-fi and young adult author Cory Doctorow; poet and fiction writer Sherman Alexie; comedian Stephen Colbert; George R.R. Martin, author of the "A Song of Ice and Fire" series (who still enjoys role-playing games). Others who have been influenced are television and film storytellers and entertainers like Robin Williams, Matt Groening ("The Simpsons"), Dan Harmon ("Community") and Chris Weitz ("American Pie").

With the release of the re-booted Dungeons & Drag-

ons Starter Set on Tuesday, and more advanced D&D rule books throughout the summer, another generation of once-and-future wordsmiths may find inspiration in the scribbled dungeon map and the secret behind Queen of the Demonweb Pits.

Díaz, who teaches writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said his first novel, the Pulitzer Prize-winning "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao," was written "in honor of my gaming years." Oscar, its protagonist, is "a role-playing-game fanatic." Wanting to become the Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien, he cranks out "10, 15, 20 pages a day" of fantasy-inspired fiction.

Though Díaz never became a fantasy writer, he attributes his literary success, in part, to his "early years profoundly embedded and invested in fantastic narratives." From D&D, he said, he "learned a lot of important essentials about storytelling, about giving the reader enough room to play."

And, he said, he was typically his group's Dungeon Master, the game's quasi-narrator, rules referee and fate giver.

The Dungeon Master must create a believable world with a back story, adventures the players might



**In an undated handout photo, well-worn gaming dice used for role-playing games like Dungeons & Dragons.**

(Ethan Gilsdorf via The New York Times)

encounter and options for plot twists. That requires skills as varied as a theater director, researcher and psychologist - all traits integral to writing. (Díaz said his boyhood gaming group was "more like an improv group with some dice.")

Sharyn McCrumb, 66, who writes the Ballard Novels series set in Appalachia, was similarly influenced, and in her comic novel "Bimbos of the Death Sun" D&D even helps solve a murder. "I always, always wanted to be the Dungeon Master because that's where the creativity lies - in thinking up places, characters and situations," McCrumb said. "If done well, a game can be a novel in itself."

What makes a D&D story different from novels and other narratives is its improvisational and responsive nature. Plotlines are decided as a group. As a D&D player, "you have to convince other players that your version of the story is interesting and valid," said Jennifer Grouling, an assistant professor of English at Ball State University who studied D&D players for her book, "The Creation of Narrative in Tabletop Role-Playing Games."

If a Dungeon Master creates "a boring world with an uninteresting plot," she said, players can go in a completely different direction; likewise, the referee can veto the action of players. "I think D&D can help build the skills to work collaboratively and to write collaboratively," she added. (Díaz called this the "social collaborative component" of D&D.)

Grouling also cited "a sense of control over stories" as a primary reason people like role-playing games. "D&D is completely in the imagination and the rules are flexible - you don't have the same limitations" of fiction, or even of a programmed video game, she said. A novel is ultimately a finished thing, written, edited and published, its story set in stone. In D&D, the plot is always fluid; anything can happen.

The playwright and screenwriter David Lindsay-Abaire, 44, who wrote the Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Rabbit Hole," said D&D "harkens back to an incredibly primitive mode of storytelling," one that was both "immersive and interactive." The Dungeon Master resembles "the tribal storyteller who gathers everyone around the fire to tell stories about heroes and gods and monsters," he said. "It's a live, communal event, where anything can happen in the moment."

Lindsay-Abaire said planning D&D adventures was "some of the very first writing that I did." And the game taught him not just about plot but also about character development.

As for Díaz, "Once girls entered the equation in a serious way," he said, "gaming went right out the window." But he said he still misses D&D's arcane pleasures and feels its legacy is still with him: "I'm not sure I would have been able to transition from reader to writer so easily if it had not been for gaming." □



**David Lindsay-Abaire, a playwright who gleaned skills from Dungeons & Dragons, in New York, July 7, 2014. Dungeons & Dragons, the first commercially available role-playing game, influenced numerous writers and taught them the art of storytelling in its 40 years on table tops.**

(Angel Franco/The New York Times)